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(J. HOLMES, TALKER'S COURT.)

REVIEWS

A Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales, both as a Penal Settlement and as a British Colony. By John Dunmore Lang, D.D., Senior Minister of the Scots Church, and Principal of the Australian College, Sydney. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Cochrane & McCrone.

Dr. Lang is a man of strong common sense, and a bit of a humourist. He has employed the leisure afforded him by a voyage to England in arranging and committing to paper his observations respecting this most interesting colony, where he has long resided, and which he has carefully studied. He has produced a work of importance, the objects of which he states to be threefold:—

"1st, To afford the reader a correct idea of the history, the tendency and the working of the Transportation system, as it regards the Australian colonies;—2nd, to exhibit a faithful representation of the present state of the colony of New South Wales in particular;—and 3rd, to promote the best interests of that colony, by promoting the emigration of reputable families and individuals to its territory, and by pointing out to the authorities at home the line of policy which it is expedient to pursue, for the future, to secure its general welfare and its rapid advancement."

For the present, we shall confine ourselves to the first of these objects, and endeavour by an abstract of the historical part of Dr. Lang's work to unfold his views respecting the extent to which he conceives the experiment of a penal colony to have proved successful, and the causes which he assigns in explaining why that success has not been greater.

Before the British colonies of America had been lost to the parent country, Virginia was the general outlet for the contents of our jails, and apprenticeship—in other words, *sale* to a planter, the mode in which we disposed of all that were convicted and condemned to transportation. The separation of the countries of course put an end to this parliamentary slave-trade in the persons of British convicts; which, as nearly 2000 were annually disposed of in this manner, and the planter paid about 20*l.* a head for their services, had added to the national resources a revenue of 40,000*l.* per annum—a sum, we suppose, considered equivalent to the disgrace of the traffic. For some time after the separation our jails were crowded with criminals; the establishment of penitentiaries on the system proposed by Blackstone, Eden, and the philanthropic Howard, was tried and given up as impracticable; transportation to the west coast of Africa, from the deadly nature of the climate, was obliged to be relinquished, as it was found to be tantamount to capital punishment; at length, after much deliberation, it was determined to form a penal settlement at Botany Bay, on the east coast of New Holland, which had then been but recently discovered by Capt. Cook, and named New South Wales.

"The main objects of the British Government, in the formation of the proposed settlement, as expressed by the legislature, as well as by the leading philanthropists and the public press of the period, were,—

"I. To rid the mother country of the intolerable nuisance arising from the daily increasing accumulation of criminals in her jails and houses of correction:

"II. To afford a suitable place for the safe custody and the punishment of these criminals, as well as for their ultimate and progressive reformation; and,

"III. To form a British colony out of those materials which the reformation of these criminals might gradually supply to the government, in addition to the families of free emigrants who might from time to time be induced to settle in the newly-discovered territory."

Now, of these, the first evidently refers to the mother country, which was to be *relieved*; the second, to the convicts who were to be *punished and reformed*; and the third, to the free emigrants who were to be encouraged to settle in the new country, to amalgamate with the reformed convicts, and, finally, to attain the *rank and privileges of a British colony*. These objects must be distinctly kept in view, as Dr. Lang's proposition is, that whenever they were adhered to, the experiment progressed; whenever they were departed from, it retrograded. In pursuance of the above determination, a fleet of eleven sail, having on board 600 male, and 250 female convicts, and commanded by Capt. Arthur Phillip, R.N., the first Governor, left Portsmouth in May 1787, and arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788. This situation appearing unfavourable, a better one was found a little farther north, in Port Jackson, and the settlement was finally formed at the head of Sydney Cove, one of its numerous inlets, on the 26th of the month, when the British flag was hoisted with due honours. To clear ground and erect houses were of course the first necessary operations; but it was found that, amongst all the convicts, there were very few mechanics, and still fewer amongst the sailors and marines, who formed their guard, so that the labour went on very slowly. The attempt to render the settlement independent in the article of food, met with a similar obstruction; comparatively few of the convicts knew anything of agriculture, nor were the officers able to instruct them. Against these disadvantages Governor Phillip laboured with much constancy and perseverance, inasmuch that, by the year 1791, upwards of 700 acres of land had been brought into cultivation, and numerous free settlers had arrived at the colony. In his intercourse with the natives he always exhibited the greatest benevolence and humanity, and punished severely any injury done to them. His endeavours for the improvement of the morals of his convict charge were constant and unintermitting.

"Governor Phillip did all, I believe, which a Governor could be expected to do, for the encouragement and reward of industrious and

virtuous persons, and the repression of open immorality. Observing, immediately after the formation of the colony, a tendency to the establishment of a system of profligacy, which was afterwards introduced, and but too generally countenanced, by the practice of men of influence in the territory, he endeavoured in an address which he delivered to all the inhabitants of the colony on the 7th of February, 1788, when the act of parliament, establishing the colonial government, was publicly read, to point out the evils that would infallibly arise from such procedure, and 'strongly recommended marriage to the convicts, promising every kind of countenance and assistance to those who by entering into that state, should manifest their willingness to conform to the laws of morality and religion.' And the good effect of this highly Christian and politic recommendation was very speedily apparent; for during the ensuing week no fewer than fourteen marriages were solemnized among the convicts."

Well aware of the benefit of good example, and perceiving the important advantages which the colony was likely to derive from the settlement of virtuous and industrious families of free emigrants in its territory, he recommended to the home government to hold out every encouragement to such emigrants, and to afford them every assistance.

"I believe it was in consequence of these recommendations, that several families of free emigrants were conveyed to the colony, at the public expense, in the year 1796, and that the free emigrant settlement of Portland-head on the banks of the Hawkesbury was formed in the year 1802. The families, who emigrated to New South Wales at these periods, were allowed a free passage to the colony, at the expense of government, a grant of land in the territory, and rations, for eighteen months after their arrival, from the king's stores."

But the peculiar circumstances of the colony led to another kind of free population. Its great distance from England presented almost an insuperable barrier to the return of such convicts as might have worked out their time, and it was part of the Governor's duty to take care that these should not revert to their former wild courses, but should be induced, by every means, to become settled, reputable members of society. For this purpose—

"To each emancipated convict who chose to settle in the colony, on the expiration of his sentence, Governor Phillip allotted thirty acres of land; fifty acres if he were married, and ten acres additional for every child in his family. The settler of this class was also allowed clothing and rations for himself and family from the king's stores, for twelve or eighteen months, together with the necessary implements of husbandry and seed to sow his ground the first year. Two female pigs were added by way of further indulgence, from the Governor's private stock, to enable the settler to raise a stock of that useful domestic animal for himself, as there was no live-stock of any kind in the colony, at the time in question, belonging to the Crown.

"These measures sufficiently evince the theoretical excellence of the system of transportation to New South Wales, as originally devised by the British legislature, and carried into opera-

tion by Governor Phillip. They also evince the peculiar adaptation of the means employed for attaining the main object of the settlement of the colony, and the enlightened zeal with which the Governor pursued that object to the utmost of his ability."

In addition to the performance of these, which constituted his more immediate duties, Governor Phillip displayed much activity in exploring the country around Sydney, and ascertaining its capabilities. He caused accurate surveys to be made of the bays along the coast, and discovered the river Hawkesbury, the banks of which, consisting chiefly of rich alluvial soil, were, for thirty years after, the granary of New South Wales. But on no occasion did his character as a man and a Governor appear to such advantage, as during the famine which prevailed in the years 1789-90, in consequence of the wreck of a vessel which had been dispatched from England with stores for the colony, while a vessel bringing additional convicts, before whom it was calculated the stores would have been landed, arrived in safety, and thus added to the consumers at a time when a deficiency in provisions was already beginning to be felt.

"The Governor received daily the same ration as the meanest convict in the territory; and on those occasions on which the established etiquette rendered it necessary that he should invite the officers of the colony to dine with him at Government House, he usually intimated that they must bring their bread along with them, as he had none to spare. On one of these occasions a humorous officer is said to have marched up to Government House with his loaf—one doubtless of very small dimensions—stuck upon the point of a sword. Indeed, it was greatly owing to the prudent management of Governor Phillip, that the settlement was not entirely abandoned (for the proposal to abandon it was actually made, but overruled by the Governor) amid the real hardships that attended its original formation. Various interesting traits of his character in this respect are still mentioned with interest by the older inhabitants of the colony. One of these is sufficiently characteristic:—On seeing any person with a dog in the course of his walks through the settlement, indignant at the maintenance of a useless mouth in the colony, and yet desirous that the owner of the dog should have a more valuable domestic animal, he would say, 'Kill your dog, sir, and I will order you a pig from the store.'"

In short, Capt. Phillip seems, in every particular, to have been a most meritorious officer, and under his directions the colony was beginning to show manifest signs of advancement; order and laborious habits prevailed amongst the convicts, the encouragement given to marriage and regularity of life had induced a higher standard of morality: this was still further confirmed by emancipation being granted (for which the Governor had full authority) to such as had exhibited peculiar marks of improvement: these men, located on farms, had already commenced to cultivate and civilize the country; numerous free settlers had, from time to time, arrived, and though some of them proved but indifferent characters, others exhibited a spirit of industry and morality, and entered into an honourable rivalry with their emancipated brethren—on the whole, the experiment which had so far been conducted in the spirit of the original terms, showed every appearance of success, when illness compelled the resignation of Governor Phillip; and, universally

regretted and respected, he left the colony December, 1792, after having administered its affairs for nearly five years.

But, for a year or two previous to his resignation, a new power had originated, which was for some time to exercise an important and highly prejudicial influence on the affairs of the colony. This was the New South Wales Corps, a regiment organized expressly for the service of the colony, the officers of which, finding their military duty trifling, and wishing for an increase of emolument, turned their attention to matters of commerce, and being for some time after Governor Phillip's departure the sole managing power, contrived during that interval to insure to themselves a monopoly of almost everything that was lucrative in the way of trade, so as to make competition on the part of the emancipated convict, or free-settler merchants, hopeless.

"The position, moreover, which they held for a considerable time in the colony, afforded them singular advantages in this respect; for as the King's stores contained whatever was supposed necessary for the comfortable subsistence of the settlement, there were ways and means of procuring from that source occasional supplies of useful articles at prime cost, which could afterwards be retailed at an enormous profit. The article *then*, and indeed ever since, in most frequent requisition throughout the colony, was rum; and in process of time it came to be established as a general rule, that there should be certain periodical issues of that article (as for instance on the arrival of a merchant-ship) to the officers of the corps in quantities proportioned to the rank of each officer. * * *

"The retail-trade was in the mean time variously managed. Most of the non-commissioned officers of the corps had licenses to sell spirits; and in this manner the superfluous rum of the regiment was disposed of to the greatest advantage. It may be questioned, indeed, whether this was altogether in accordance with the declared intentions of the British Government, either in regard to the colony as a place for the reformation of convicts, or in regard to the duties of those to whom their moral guardianship was entrusted; but then a much more important question recurs, for in what other way could the gentlemen of the New South Wales Corps have disposed of their surplus rum?"

This all tended much to diminish the order and regularity introduced by Governor Phillip, but they went still further, by their example, towards depreciating the standard of morality.

"The officers of the New South Wales Corps were neither all married, nor all virtuous men. Some of them, it is true, lived respectably with their families, and set a virtuous example to the colony, even in the worst of times; but the greater number took female convicts of prepossessing appearance under their protection, and employed them occasionally in the retail-business. In so small a community as that of New South Wales, at the period in question, a *liaison* of this kind could scarcely be concealed. In fact, there was no attempt at concealment: decency was outraged on all hands: and the prison population laughed at their superiors for outdoing them in open profligacy, and naturally followed their example."

During three years interregnum, which occurred after Governor Phillip's departure, the gentlemen of the New South Wales Corps had managed to render themselves so influential a body that for fifteen successive years the whole business of the Governors seems to have been to endeavour to repress their

encroachments. Capt. Hunter, the second Governor, a man of honour and integrity, finding himself thwarted in all his efforts for the improvement of the population, and anticipated at home by secret machinations and clandestine representations, resigned his office in disgust. Still, during his stay, agricultural matters were considerably improved, and the great coal district, seventy miles north of Sydney, discovered. He was succeeded by Capt. King, a rough old sailor, who soon found himself totally out-generalled by the gentlemen of the Corps.

"Of this I have been told an instance somewhat amusing:—His Excellency having found it necessary to prefer charges against a member of the Corps to the Secretary of State, did so accordingly, at considerable length, entrusting his dispatches to an officer who was proceeding, I believe expressly for the purpose, to England. But he was imprudent enough to allow the circumstance to get abroad rather too soon, and the genius of Botany Bay was therefore immediately set to work to counteract his measures. His Excellency's box was accordingly *picked* of its dispatches before it left the colony, and when opened in the Duke of Portland's office in Downing Street, it exhibited only a number of harmless old newspapers."

To counterbalance this formidable power, Capt. King hit on the expedient of bringing forward the emancipated convicts, but, with singular fatuity, adopted as the mode of attaching them to his government, the very expedient which, in the hands of the New South Wales Corps, had produced such demoralizing effects—he granted licenses to sell rum:—

"Such licenses were accordingly dispensed with a liberality and profusion above all praise; for even the chief constable of Sydney, whose business it was to repress irregularity, had a license to promote it, under His Excellency's hand, by the sale of rum and other ardent liquors; and although the chief gaoler was not exactly permitted to convert His Majesty's gaol into a grog-shop, he had a licensed house, in which he sold rum publicly on his own behalf, right opposite the gaol-door."

Having thus, unintentionally, done everything in his power to spread vice and wretchedness in the colony, and having to a great extent succeeded, so far as the convicts were concerned, Capt. King was recalled August, 1806, and replaced by Capt. Bligh, famous for having lost the ship *Bounty* by Christian's mutiny in the Southern Seas.

Capt. Bligh seems to have seen the true state of affairs, and to have taken some judicious steps towards a remedy, such as depriving the officers of their monopoly in the sale of rum, by refusing them any more permits to land it duty-free—bringing forward the agricultural interest, consisting chiefly of free settlers, together with some emancipated convicts of good character, who had located themselves on the banks of the Nepean and Hawkesbury—doing away with the system of barter, which had enabled the merchants to impose on the farmers, by giving them in return for their produce, goods, such as rum, tea, sugar, &c. at enormously high rates, and permitting the farmers on the contrary, to obtain on moderate terms from the King's store, such articles as they might stand in need of, for which he accepted their notes, to the estimated amount of their several crops and improvements. For these reasons, his memory is still warmly cherished by the

middle and lower classes of the settlers of older standing, throughout the colony.

"His beneficent and patriotic arrangements, however, were directly opposed to the private interests of that comparatively numerous and powerful class of individuals who had grown corpulent on the drunkenness of the colony, and who lived and moved and had their being as men of credit and renown in the colony, on the increase and perpetuation of that detestable vice. Certain parties of good repute could no longer sell the usual quantity of Bengal rum, Brazils tobacco, Siam sugar, young Hyson tea, or British manufactured goods at the usual remunerating prices—a change of system which of course could not be tolerated. In short, the craft was in danger, and the rapid falling of the mercury in the barometers of the different harams of the colony portended a storm."

The consequence was, an open and direct opposition between the Governor and the Corps, which at last ran so high, that the Corps with their Colonel, Johnston, at their head marched one evening to the Government House, arrested the Governor, in despite of a spirited attempt made by his daughter, "to keep them out with her parasol," and shipped him off to England with a long complaint of his conduct and defence of their own, supported by several addresses from the inhabitants of the colony, the number of which was considerably increased by a proper distribution of rum permits and licenses, grants of land and government cattle, free pardons, and other little immunities to all, both free and convict, who either approved of the late measures, "or were likely to do so with proper encouragement." This, however, was a step a little too daring; Col. Johnston was tried and cashiered—that he was not shot, was altogether owing to the perfect indifference which a new ministry manifested towards the settlement; several of the more active rioters were removed, and the Corps finally recalled, and transformed into an ordinary regiment of the line.

Under these favourable circumstances, Col. Macquarie set out to take possession of the government, which he held for a period of twelve years, during which, says Dr. Lang, he did much good and much evil. The good was consequent on the lavish expenditure of British money, with which he laid down several excellent lines of road, rebuilt and beautified Sydney, and erected numerous public edifices,—some useful, some not;—the evil resulted from his setting out with the erroneous maxim, "New South Wales is a place for the reformation of convicts; free people have no right to come to it;" in consequence of which, he neither countenanced nor encouraged the class of free emigrant settlers; and also, from his marked indifference to the nature of a man's moral character, land being granted indiscriminately to every emancipated convict, many of whom, it was notorious, never took possession of their farms, but sold them for rum, while all who realized a fortune, no matter by what means, honest or dishonest, were sure of being received at the Government House, where it seems to have been another maxim, that "prosperous vice ought to be encouraged and rewarded."

It is unnecessary to point out how decidedly such opinions contradicted the objects for which the settlement was established. As far, therefore, as the reformation of the criminals was concerned, Dr. Lang has no hesitation in pronouncing the experiment a

failure, all through the Macquarie administration, though, from the quantity of money put into circulation, all things bore an appearance of success, of which a moment's consideration will show the unreal nature. "In short," as he observes, "there was plenty of employment, plenty of money, and plenty of rum to be had at Sydney, in the good old times of Governor Macquarie; and who that liked the last of these articles, would in such circumstances think of going elsewhere in search of the other two?"

Another result of this system, equally unfortunate for the morals of the colony, was, that it produced a concentration of the emancipated convict population, which has uniformly proved a concentration of vice and villany, profligacy and misery, dissipation and ruin; whereas, were these same men dispersed over an extent of country, each occupying a farm, at which he was compelled to labour, and engaged in domestic pursuits, and the bringing up of a family, there seems no question that far the greater number, removed beyond the reach of contagion, and supplied with stimuli to honest exertion, would have turned out reputable and useful members of society. All great men have their weakness, and

"Governor Macquarie's weakness was a rabid desire for immortality, that took a singular delight in having his name affixed to every thing that required a name in the colony. It was said of Greece by one of the ancient Roman poets, 'There's not a stone in the land without a name.' On my first arrival in the colony, shortly after the close of Governor Macquarie's administration, it appeared to me that a similar remark might with almost equal propriety have been made of New South Wales; with this difference, however, that in the latter case the name for every thing was *Macquarie*. The Governor's weakness in this particular being easily discovered, the calculating colonists found it their interest to affix His Excellency's name to anything he had given them in the shape of landed property, as in that case they were almost sure to obtain an extension of their grants. A worthy colonist, with whom I was sufficiently acquainted to learn the circumstance a few years ago, had at one time no fewer than two farms and a son all called *Macquarie*. * * *

"A propensity of the kind I have just mentioned on the part of the ruler was likely to be a fruitful subject of ridicule with those who were dissatisfied with his measures; and the following instance of this species of colonial wit is not undeserving of preservation. The late Dr. Townson, L.L.D., a gentleman of very superior literary and scientific acquirements, who had published a volume of *Travels in Hungary*, and had afterwards settled in New South Wales, was on some occasion entertaining a party of visitors at his residence, a few miles beyond the settlement of Liverpool, by showing them his extensive and well-stocked garden and orchard. One of the party, observing an insect on one of the trees in the grounds, asked the doctor, who was an eminent naturalist, what its name was. The doctor replied, with the utmost gravity, 'It is a species of bug that abounds in the live timber of the colony. It has not yet got a name: but I propose that it should be called *Cimes Macquarieanus*, or the *Macquarie Bug*.'"

In 1821, Governor Macquarie was replaced by Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, who, being a man of the very best intentions, supposed every one under him to be the same, and had therefore the less hesitation in entrusting them with the affairs of the colony, while he occupied himself in looking through

a telescope at the stars. "The necessary consequence of this unhappy arrangement was, that while the general advancement of the colony was but indifferently studied, arbitrary acts—acts of injustice and oppression—were sometimes done, in His Excellency's name and under his authority, which his own better feelings and better judgment would in other circumstances have utterly disallowed."

In truth, his Excellency's feelings seem at all times to have been better than his judgment, as two of his measures, with respect to which he seems to have used most care and deliberation, had decidedly a most unfavourable bearing on the general advancement of the colony, and on one of the grand objects of its original settlement—the reformation of the convict population. These two measures referred, the one to a change of currency from sterling to colonial, by which he ruined many industrious families, without benefiting, as he had expected, the Treasury; the other an act respecting the supply of the King's stores, for an explanation of the operation of which, we must refer to Dr. Lang's work. A measure, however, still more injurious to public morality, says the Doctor, and most injudicious in a penal colony, was the establishment by his Excellency of a Turf Club, and of numerous races:—

"For the races of New South Wales are not merely the signal for 'the periodical assemblage of all the wealth and beauty of the colony,' (to use the appropriate phrase,) but the signal for the periodical assemblage and concentration of all its vice and villany, and for the consequent recurrence of scenes of gambling and drunkenness, and dissipation, which it is unnecessary to describe. A judicious Governor of that colony would therefore, I conceive, have hesitated ere he patronized and encouraged an association, the certain tendency of which was to deteriorate and to debase the breed of men, notwithstanding its holding forth the chance of improving the breed of horses. For although it often happens in New South Wales, as it does sometimes in England, that the horse is by far the nobler animal of the two, he is not the one who is capable of the highest improvement, or whom it is of the greatest consequence to society to improve—he is not the one who was originally made but a little lower than the angels, and who, notwithstanding his present debasement, may yet be enabled to re-ascend that height of glory from which he fell.

"There had been occasional races in the colony during the government of Major-General Macquarie; but the organization of a regular system of yearly or half-yearly races all over the territory dates from the administration of Sir Thomas Brisbane, who is thus, as it were, the Patron-Saint of Australian jockeyship. There are the Sydney and the Parramatta races, as distinct as those of Epsom and Doncaster, although the towns are only fourteen miles distant from each other. There are the Windsor races for the dwellers on the Hawkesbury, and the Liverpool and the Campbelltown races for the inhabitants of these minor colonial towns and their adjoining vicinities. There are races at Maitland and Patrick's Plains, two different stations on Hunter's River! at Bathurst beyond the mountains, and at Goulburn Plains, two hundred miles from Sydney, in the district of Argyle. In short, the march of improvement is much too weak a phrase for the meridian of New South Wales; we must there speak of the race of improvement; for the three appropriate and never-failing accompaniments of advancing civilization in that colony are a race-course, a public-house, and a gaol."

In short, it appears, that, as concerning the

reformation of the convicts, Sir T. Brisbane left the colony, if possible, in a worse state than he found it.

"When I ask, *what Sir Thomas Brisbane did for New South Wales*; I pause in vain for a reply. When I ask, *what memorial he left behind him to endear his memory to the country and to perpetuate his fame*; a hundred fingers point to the *Brisbane cup*, and I am told to listen to the song of the drunkard, as he tosses up in the air a hat bereft of three-fourths of its brim, and hiccups out *Sir—Thomas—Brisbane—for ever!* at the half-yearly races of Sydney and Parramatta."

Numerous emigrants had arrived during the Brisbane administration at their own expense, to whom, on presenting themselves at the Colonial Secretary's office, and producing testimonials of their fitness, free grants of land were made; but such irregularities were suffered to prevail even in this department, that

"I have myself heard of the case of an individual who, having come to the colony from the Isle of France for the recovery of his health, was induced, on hearing of the facility with which land could be obtained from the colonial government by persons newly arrived in New South Wales, to apply for a grant of two thousand acres of land, which he accordingly received, and immediately sold to an old resident in the country, without ever having seen it himself, for the sum of five hundred pounds. He left the colony very shortly thereafter, with his health restored, and his purse unexpectedly and very agreeably replenished."

In December, 1825, Sir T. Brisbane was succeeded by Lieut.-General Darling, well known for the squabbles with the colonial press in which he was constantly involved. These seem to have arisen from an over-sensitiveness to public opinion, and were a fruitful source of annoyance to the Governor, who, in other respects, particularly where order, regularity, and persevering attention to business, were concerned, seems worthy of all praise. It would, however, appear that he exhibited much partiality in the distribution of his favours, and that, under his orders, the unfortunate convicts were treated with a severity bordering on cruelty. During his administration, Dr. Lang distinguishes four epochs, each sufficient to form an era in the history of the settlement.

"The first of these was the era of agricultural excitement, the second the era of agricultural depression; the third was the era of drought, and the fourth the era of libels."

To enter at length into each of these would exceed our limits; but we may just say that the first was consequent on the formation of the 'Australian Agricultural Company,' whose agent appearing in the Australian market in 1826, with a million of money to purchase stock, while at the same time numerous individuals who had gotten large grants from government, coming at the same time, with the same intent, sheep and cattle suddenly obtained an enormous fictitious value; the colonists, thinking that great benefits were to arise from the speculation, commenced also buying, often on credit, often on loans taken up at large interest, every one conceiving that he who had a large flock would be sure of realizing a large fortune. The result of this is obvious, but the catastrophe was hastened by the neglect of tillage into which the rage for pasture farming naturally led, and by a drought

which lasted for three years, and compelled the colonists to drive their cattle to market in order to get grain for themselves and their families, so that there were now as many to sell as there formerly had been to buy;—sales were consequently effected at immense loss, and those who had taken up money on high interest to make purchases, were ruined.

The era of libels refers to the disputes between the governor and the press before mentioned, and as they did little credit to any concerned, we shall pass them over.

General Darling left the colony in October, 1831, after having administered its affairs for a period of six years. Major-General Bourke, the present governor, arrived in the December of the same year; but we shall say nothing of his acts until we come to consider the present state of the settlement, and enter on the question, how far it is now arrived at that condition in which the third of the objects stated may be prudently carried into effect, by bestowing on it the "*full rank and privileges of a British colony*."

We cannot, however, conclude, without offering our thanks to Dr. Lang for the clear, comprehensive, and, we believe, unbiassed manner, in which he has laid the statement of the case before the public. It is one of great interest to the legislator and philanthropist, as tending to the determination of the great question, whether, and how far, a penal settlement can be made the means of reforming the guilty, and placing them in a situation to benefit that country which by their crimes they had offended; and we feel half inclined to admit the conclusion arrived at in Dr. Lang's humorous translation—

Nullus in orbe Sicius Balis præluet amoris.

HORACE.

"Botany Bay, or, as it is now designated, New South Wales, is at present the first of the British colonies."

Divine Providence, or the Three Cycles of Revelation, &c. By the Rev. G. Croly, L.L.D. London: Duncan.

THE subject of this volume is not one that can well be discussed in the pages of a popular periodical, but Dr. Croly's literary claims are too great for us to dismiss his work with a scanty and insufficient notice. Long known to the world as a poet, politician, novelist, and dramatist, he comes now before us as an interpreter of prophecy, and expounder of the ways of Providence. For such a task, the elements of his former triumphs, and the sources of his present fame, afforded him little aid, or rather are obstacles to his success. A gorgeous imagination, almost of an oriental cast, dexterity in the use of bitter sarcasm and pungent ridicule, powers of description which have rarely been rivalled, and vivid conception of character, have little in common with the coldness of verbal interpretation—the patient search after authorities—the cautious scrutiny of their value—or the honest statement of results, even when they contradict "a foregone conclusion." To dazzle with eloquence is one thing—to convince by argument is another, and a very different thing; dogmatism in the former is a principle of strength, in the latter it is little short of a confession of weakness.

Countless have been the volumes written to illustrate the course of Providence in relation to the history of mankind, and countless the interpretations given of the unfulfilled prophecies recorded both in the Old and New Testament. They have all failed; they must all necessarily fail, for what are they but attempts of the Finite to comprehend the counsels of the Infinite? efforts to pass the limits prescribed by Eternal wisdom—to become "wise above that which is written"?—efforts, of course, predestined to ill success, for, as Cowper wisely says—

God is his own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

Dr. Croly's argument has the merit of originality; its plan is one which none but a great mind could have conceived; he designs to show that the leading facts of the Jewish and the Patriarchal dispensations are the same in essence, in purpose, and in order, with the history of Christianity, so far as it has gone, and with its future course as prophetically described; and that, if this connection be established, "the acknowledgment of a Providence as the author of Christianity is no more capable of dispute than the properties of a triangle."

Now, it appears to us, that if these similarities were as perfectly demonstrated as any proposition in Euclid, the evidence in favour of Christianity would not be one whit strengthened, or, at best, that the new argument in its favour would only amount to the lowest degree of probability; and, therefore, that we shall not in any degree weaken the arguments by which the truth of revelation is legitimately demonstrated, if we show that the similarities brought forward by our author are forced and fanciful, that his opinions are frequently unsupported, and his statements not always borne out by facts.

Dr. Croly adopts the opinion of the Hutchinsonians, that Moses has given us a strictly philosophical account of the Creation, and that he is to be understood literally, when he says that, in six days, "God made the heavens and the earth." This, of course, brings him into direct collision with the geologists, whom he scruples not to describe as at once idle theorists and dangerous infidels. The remembrance of such names as Sedgwick and Buckland did not embarrass him for a moment; they are described as men who have compromised religion by an idle endeavour to conciliate the sceptic. The folly of geologists is shown by a parade of some absurdities, into which those who devised theories of the earth have fallen, which is just about as fair as an attempt to decry religion by collecting the errors of speculative divines. Now, without entering into any critical discussion, or examining the quibbling etymologies which it has pleased our author to extract from the old lexicons, we venture to affirm, that the word *day* in the first chapter of Genesis may mean an indefinite period of time, because it was not until the fourth day, according to the same authority, that means for measuring time were created, or, at least, applied to that purpose. Further into the argument we need not enter, for Professor Sedgwick has anticipated Dr. Croly's attack, and completely refuted the assertions of those who declare that geological studies have an infidel tendency; nor, indeed, should we notice the topic, were it not that

we fear religion may suffer from the misguided zeal of such advocates as Dr. Croly. "When first the telescope disclosed to human eyes the mysteries of the firmament, and exposed the errors of the Ptolemaic system, no small injury was done to the cause of religion by the injudicious attempt that was made to bring in revelation to its support, and check the progress of philosophical inquiry."† There is somewhat of the same spirit in the world now that consigned Galileo to the dungeon, and forced the translators of Newton *alienam gerere personam*. It deserves to be remarked, that, while Dr. Croly binds geologists to the sacred text of the Hebrew, as interpreted by the common lexicographers, he frees chronologists from all such fetters, roundly declaring that the Hebrew was falsified by the Jews, and that the Septuagint version is an authority preferable to the original text.

Of the historical parallels we have next to speak, and with sorrow we say, that never was there any work that displayed such perverted ingenuity in the invention of fanciful resemblances. In the identification of Christ as the second Adam, we are gravely told, that his crucifixion between the penitent and impenitent thief was typified by Adam between the repentant Eve and the hardened serpent! Again, we are told of the similarity between Moses and Constantine—between "the meekest of men," and one of the most sanguinary tyrants that ever disgraced the purple! To complete the absurdity, the vision of the cross, which Eusebius declares that the Emperor narrated to him, is asserted to be an historical fact, established beyond the reach of controversy!

"The true view (of Constantine's conversation with Eusebius) would be, that of a mighty monarch, long past the period of earthly insecurity, calmly conversing with a Christian bishop, on the divine interposition which had guided his way to universal power, and stamped the greatest revolution in the records of empire."

This is not the true view, nor anything like it: a much more accurate account would be, that the most wily of politicians narrated a story to the most credulous of historians, which the latter implicitly adopted. The story is refuted by the notorious fact, that Constantine did not become a Christian, or at least was not baptized, until the year in which he died, more than a dozen years after the period of the alleged vision.

Another of these parallels is between Alexander of Macedon and Napoleon, and, of course, the fact that both invaded Egypt is strongly insisted upon—but where did Dr. Croly learn that Alexander was a latitudinarian in religion? Had he been so, the throne of the Seleucide would have been for centuries safe in Persia. Does Dr. Croly not know, that Alexander is described as a cruel persecutor in the Zend-Avesta—that the Mohammedans have made him a saint, because he laboured to destroy the Magian religion—and that Antiochus, when he persecuted the Jews and the followers of Zerdusht, declared that he adhered to the policy of the first Macedonian conqueror?

We shall not exhaust the patience of our readers, by referring to the parallels between Joseph in Egypt and St. Paul in Greece—between Ezra in Judea and Luther in Ger-

many—it is quite sufficient to say, that such parallelism has been propounded, and much ingenuity and much eloquence wasted in their support.

The last chapter in the volume is devoted to speculations on the future: it appears, that Christendom is about to fall into general apostasy, which will be visited by some exemplary punishment, after which a new and more illustrious course of Providence will commence. The signs of this approaching apostasy are not stated, and in England at least they would be difficult to discover. From our first existence as a nation, there never was a period in which religion was more revered, than the present.

We have read this volume with sincere sorrow, because, the waste of power which it displays, has not, within our memory, been paralleled. It seems the production of Salathiel, rather than an ordinary being; it has no human sympathies, the destinies of men and of nations are treated like the moves of the pieces on a chess-board; it gives dogmatism for argument, and instead of reasoning, presents us with gorgeous declamation.

The Life of a Soldier, a Narrative of Twenty-seven Years' Service in various Parts of the World. By a Field Officer. 3 vols. London: Bentley.

This work is so little to our taste, that we shall content ourselves with gleanings here and there for a few scattered anecdotes. The raising an Irish militia regiment is one of the best, and may serve as a companion picture to 'Sir Jonah Barrington's challenging the Jury':—

"The Irish are a people naturally fond of the careless, chequered, errant life of a soldier; and, as one proof of it, my corps was raised voluntarily in a single day. A large quantity of cockades were provided, not alone for the men, but also for the colonel's friends—a number of dinner parties were given in honour of the occasion—and the festivities concluded with a grand ball in the evening. The next morning our one-day-old regiment assembled, as ordered, in front of their colonel's house, and that officer directed that a shilling should be given to each man wherewith to drink his health; but, as his servants proceeded to distribute the money, a general cry arose that the colonel wanted to put them off with a shilling in lieu of the guinea which, on being called out, each was entitled to receive. All attempts at explanation proved perfectly unavailing—never were men so deaf to reason—they tore the cockades from their hats, as well as from the dresses of the ladies and gentlemen—trampled under foot these now valueless insignia. . . .

"In a few days, however, the matter was better understood; the corps was called out, and then became subject to military discipline; not a man was absent, and considerable concern for their past conduct, which had made their officers look so foolish, was clearly observable in the air and bearing of all; the drill proceeded regularly under non-commissioned officers of the line; undress clothing, blue jackets, white trousers, and forage caps, came down from Dublin, and with it the route.

"Early in the morning of the day fixed for our marching out of town, the commanding officer gave directions that half the regiment should proceed to the town-house for the arms, and that every man of the party should bring from it two stand to the barrack-square, the place of muster. Instantly it ran through the ranks, that each private was to be forced to

carry two firelocks during the whole march; and a scene of confusion and anarchy, not inferior to that of the cockades, was momentarily expected to be enacted. . . . But at length the meaning of the order was satisfactorily explained, and then, running into the opposite extreme, several were heard to declare that for such a distance each individual would cheerfully carry an arm chest."

"At Cloughen," says our Field Officer, *then* an ensign, "we found the thirty-third regiment, which was then under orders to embark for the West Indies; they were commanded by the Honourable Colonel Wellesley. He happened to be standing near the bridge, while we were marching over, and I, wishing to come off with flying colours, unfurled mine; but, unluckily, the wind was very high—I was blown out of the ranks toward the future Duke of Wellington, and, before I could stop myself, my sacred charge was wrapped round him, and his hat knocked off. How little idea I then had, that I should yet be under his command in many a well-contested field."

It happened, however, that the destination of the thirty-third was altered. Col. Wellesley went to India, and our present Field Officer to the West Indies. Here is a sketch of a campaign at St. Domingo:—

"The burial-ground happened to be near one of the principal batteries, called the Polygon, and the officer of the guard had orders to attend all interments, and see that three shovelfuls of quick lime were thrown into each grave. As the hospital carts, each carrying three bodies, arrived almost without intermission during the day, this was both a sad and a wearisome duty. The number of the hospital assistants was now reduced to the ratio of one to a hundred patients, when at least ten times as many were necessary; the consequences of this alteration to the sick were deplorable—the poor fellows, being unable to fan away the flies themselves, and having no proper attendance, died with their mouths full of them, and frequently, as their heads were shaved, they were covered with such swarms that the skin was completely hid. The regiments in camp were the greatest sufferers; as the rain at times, and principally at night, fell in torrents, and soon penetrated the old moth-eaten tents.

"I have passed whole nights, sitting in my tent up to my ankles in water, and holding an umbrella over my head. In the morning, when the sun shone out, the camp was enveloped in a cloud of steam. Our living in such damp brought on various fatal diseases, which in a few months reduced strong regiments to skeletons. Sudden deaths also happened occasionally; I recollect one instance in particular:—I was invited to dine one day by Lieutenant R—t of the 32nd, and at the hour appointed I walked to his tent and asked the servant, who stood at the door of it, if dinner was not ready; the answer was, 'Master is dead, sir.' It was too true; for the hospital-cart was soon brought up for the corpse of him who, in the morning, had asked me to dine, little thinking then that he had eaten his last meal!

"At the advanced posts the pickets were placed without any shelter behind *clerans de frise*; an officer and only three men went on at night, and a sentinel was posted on the pathway that led through the woods. I have often revisited a sentinel after an interval of a few minutes, and found him fast asleep without arms in his hands: the punishment for the crime of sleeping on his post, to which a soldier is made liable by the articles of war, is death; but in our present situation such severity was uncalled-for, as it was not in human nature to bear up against the exhaustion of strength and spirits experienced by our men. The very

† See an able article on the Consistency of Geology with Scripture in the *British Critic*, Vol. XXIII.

beasts of this island seemed to have conspired to annoy us; the large monkeys frequently made so great a rustling in the woods that the sentinels, thinking the enemy were there, fired, and thus caused the whole line to turn out, which was extremely harassing. And then the asses, which were very numerous, would occasionally collect on the flank of the camp, and charge at full speed along the whole length of it, tumbling over the ropes, and breaking the poles of the tents; the men used to provide themselves with stout sticks for the better reception of these unwelcome visitors, and did not spare them. We were commonly favoured with this 'long-eared rout' whenever a thunder-storm came on; and what can be more vexatious to a worn-out soldier in a tempestuous night, than to have a donkey or two tumbling over him, snapping his tent-pole, and leaving him rolled up in the wet canvas till morning!"

We have heard a great deal latterly of the extraordinary humanity of West Indian planters. Our present writer's experience does not seem to confirm this report:—

"The French resident on this Island treated their slaves barbarously; I saw few of these unfortunate creatures that did not bear evident marks of ill-usage; the commission of the most trivial fault, when discovered by their masters, insured them an unmerciful flogging. On such occasions they were made to lie at full length on the ground, and the punishment was inflicted with a long whip, like those used by waggoners in England. I have seen an axe flung with full force at a poor wretch, because he did not hold a piece of timber exactly as his master, who was chopping it, wished. * * * When recovering from the yellow fever in the military hospital, I was disturbed one morning by the pitiable cries of some one in distress, and, looking through a window that was close to my bed, I perceived that they proceeded from a small black boy who was passing by; he was heavily chained, and carried a picher of water on his head, while a French lad, who walked after him, was lashing him with a whip, and tormenting him with the most wanton cruelty. My servant ran out instantly, pursued the malignant rascal, and, overtaking him near his residence, gave him a smart blow on the head in proof of a Briton's constitutional abhorrence of such dastardly conduct; but this interference on the part of one of our nation in behalf of a slave, was not to be borne by a vindictive Frenchman, and in revenge, the poor black child was burned and lacerated with hot irons. I heard his cries for three days. On the fourth, death came to the little sufferer's aid, and kindly put an end to his misery."

The Life and Correspondence of Henry Salt, Esq. By J. J. Halls, Esq. 2 vols. London: Bentley.

The expectations which we formed from the first volume of this work, have not been realized; we trusted that in the second, we should find the results of Mr. Salt's observations, during his long residence in Egypt, but regret to learn, that his most important manuscripts have been lost, and that the editor has been forced to supply the place of the valuable information they must have contained, by the casual remarks on general topics, that are to be found in Salt's private letters. It is to be lamented, that the absence of these manuscripts has induced the author of these volumes to plunge deep into controversies that have long since lost the little public interest they ever possessed; nobody cares one jot, in the present day, whether Belzoni was employed by Salt, or whether he investigated Egyptian antiquities on his own ac-

count; the rivalry between Salt and Drovetti is still less interesting, and a single sentence, instead of some dozen pages, would have been quite sufficient for the controversy between the consul and the British Museum. One controversial topic is of importance: the work before us amply vindicates Salt from the charge of having opposed the Greeks in their struggle for independence, and used his consular power to perpetuate Turkish tyranny.

We remember to have heard some surprise expressed, at Mr. Salt's never having produced any great work worthy of his fame, and what were supposed to be his opportunities: but those who urged the charge were little aware of the extent of consular duties in such a country as Egypt; it is scarcely possible to conceive a situation of greater difficulty and responsibility than that which Salt describes:—

"You must know, that the office of Consul in Turkey is very different from what it is in Europe; for every stranger, in civilized countries, being subject to the laws of the state he lives under, the Consul has nothing to do but to sign passports, regulate ships' papers, and use his interference with the local government in cases where the terms of the treaty are not complied with; while, on the contrary, in these barbarous regions the Consuls are a sort of Kings. Every Consulate here is a little Government, and all those residing in the country are considered to be under its exclusive protection. Once in a way, indeed, the Pasha does presume, on any enormous crime being committed, as killing one of his officers, or such like offence, to cut off an European's head; but otherwise, he leaves every thing that concerns our subjects (for so they are always called) to our *wiser* jurisdiction; so that we have to try causes for murder, assault, and robbery; and to decide between contending parties, where hundreds of thousands of piastres (a piastre is about fourpence halfpenny in value) are concerned.

"I have, at Cairo, about three hundred of said subjects, Maltese, Ionians, &c. &c. and there are about as many more at Alexandria, who principally are under the rule of the Consul, Mr. Lee, but who have a right of appeal to my superior 'worship' (as Dr. Richardson, in his *Travels*, calls me) at Cairo. It is a strange system, and one that was certainly never in the contemplation of the Government at home, so that no regulations nor proper rules for our guidance have ever been laid down. We do our best, sometimes proceeding as far as imprisonment, fining, and whipping; but you may be sure we never, however hardened the criminal, or however terrible the offence, proceed to the extremity of hanging. What is chiefly to be regretted is, that even in atrocious cases, as murder, &c. there is no provision for punishing the offender, as an indictment will not lie in England for crimes committed in Turkey, it never having come into contemplation that the government of any country would yield so far as to give up all right over the persons of strangers residing in its territory. You may imagine, under such circumstances, that my life is not one of idleness."

Instead of being annoyed that a clever man in such a situation had done little beyond the duties of his office, we should rather be surprised at his having done anything.

The inexplicable conduct of the Russian Emperor Alexander, in the affairs of the Greek revolution, is duly exposed by Mr. Salt, who was, at least on the first outbreak of the Greeks, a Philhellenist. In the year

1822, he writes the following account to a friend:—

"Everything has hitherto passed very tranquilly in Egypt, owing to the firmness of our Pasha; but we have the misery of seeing daily hundreds of poor Greeks, who arrive on board the different vessels, passing into a cruel slavery. Every nerve has been strained by the European inhabitants, resident here, to purchase and provide for such as happened to come on board British ships; but their means have at length failed, and we are compelled to give up the farther hope of assisting them.

"Whatever our politicians may think of this business in England, it does appear to me that all the European nations have played but a miserable part on the present occasion, and more especially the Emperor Alexander, the pious, the peace-making Emperor, who expressed a wish to see a Bible in the hands of each of his subjects, and yet has barbarously permitted four millions of Christians, professing the same faith, and relying upon him for protection, to be sacrificed to the diabolical vengeance of the Turk.

"It is a fact well known to us, that two years before the insurrection broke out, the emissaries of Russia were to be found in every part of the Turkish empire, but particularly throughout the Archipelago, exciting the Greeks, by every suggestion that could flatter a brave people, to arms. The Greek navy—was it not formed under the auspices and even banner of Russia? what, then, will posterity say of the mighty prince who betrayed them? A year and a half ago the game was in his own hands. Austria was occupied in Italy, and would have conceded any proposition the Emperor might have made; England was employed in arranging her finances, and in bringing into order her almost rebellious population; and France was in too unsettled a state to be able to interfere. Then was the moment for Alexander to have moved forward his army, to have taken possession of Moldavia and Wallachia, and to have presented himself at the head of a hundred thousand men before Constantinople. The fate of Turkey had then been in his hands, and he might have evinced his magnanimity by granting that power better terms than it merited, and yet have secured the independence of Greece. Those insolent miscreants, the Turks, would in such a case have been taught a proper respect for the Franks, and would have consented without a murmur to such wise regulations as the European powers might have pointed out for their guidance; civilization might have been gradually introduced, and Christians have been respected throughout the Levant."

But Salt, like many others, soon cooled in his enthusiasm, and began to regard the Greek cause as identified with the dreams of the discontented throughout Europe. The personal inconvenience to which he was exposed, by the junction of Lord Cochrane and other Englishmen with the Greeks, probably had no small effect in changing his sentiments: he says, in May 1827—

"We must expect to pass a stormy summer since the arrival of Lord Cochrane among the Greeks. Should he attack us at Alexandria, the consequences must be very serious, though I trust his Majesty's ships now stationed there through my exertions, may be sufficient to protect his Majesty's liege subjects from any very serious mishap. It is by no means a pleasant situation we are placed in; nothing can persuade the Turks that Lord Cochrane is not acting under orders from Government, and, consequently, we are all looked upon with an evil eye."

The inconvenience produced by Lord Cochrane's interference, probably rendered

Salt unjust to his lordship, for we cannot believe, that the hinted imputation against Cochrane's courage, so often and so nobly proved, can have had any other foundation than the prejudice of the moment—especially when we connect with it the prophecy of Hydra's speedy fall, a prophecy which seems to have been hazarded, in utter ignorance of the state of affairs in Greece:—

"On the 16th of June Lord Cochrane, in the *Hellas*, with twenty-three Greek ships, appeared off our harbour and burned a small brig that had run aground in attempting to enter the port at dusk; but, on the appearance next day of the Pasha's fleet of corvettes only, the frigates not being ready, his lordship and suite retired. In fact, they made a most contemptible figure before this port, and were pursued by the Turkish fleet afterwards to Rhodes. The affair before with two Turkish corvettes of twenty-two cannon each, off Zante, does the *Hellas* little honour. The two corvettes are now here, one of them a Tunisian and the other of Constantinople, and their captains have been handsomely rewarded for fighting so well. The Greeks have put in the *Malta Gazette* that they were 'two frigates'; but this I can assure you is a falsehood. They are both corvettes, and not large ones. In fact, I believe Lord Cochrane has little or no command over these gentry, and, I am told by an Austrian commander, has only three hundred and fifty Greeks on board the *Hellas*, so that she is not in a state to fight. That the whole is not at an end is the fault of the European cabinets. The means were easy.

"A considerable expedition sails from this in a few days for *Hydra*, which I have no doubt will fall; and as Rasched Pasha, with a large force, has joined Ibrahim Pasha, Napoli di Romania cannot hold out long. You may put it down as a certainty, that if the European powers do not come boldly forward, in less than six months the Greeks will no longer exist as a nation."

The respect paid to Salt's memory, by the consuls of every European nation at Alexandria, when the account of his death was received, is the highest compliment that could be paid to his public character; every flag was hoisted half staff high, from the time of his decease to his burial. No better proof can be given of his amiability in private, than the longing for home, and its endearments, that he describes in the extract with which we shall conclude:—

"How often do I long to be among my friends at Lichfield once more, even for a short time, and to see the beautiful spires and to wander about the green fields which I hold so exactly in my memory. I hope the great elm in Mr. Levett's field is still standing, and the willow going to Stow. Your assurance that the old pear and apple trees and mountain-ash are living, gave me great delight. So you have been great travellers—my sister gadding about, *without her husband too*; I see she is like myself, and takes a pleasure in observing the beauties of nature: believe me, after all I have seen, there is nothing in the world that affords such pure and unalloyed delight. I am truly glad to find that you still remain with my sister, and that you continue so attached to her. It will add much to my pleasure, when I visit Lichfield, to renew our acquaintance, if you still remain what my memory pictures you to have been as my 'little girl.' But you must all expect to find me strangely altered—quite the old gentleman of forty-five, with a serious face, grey hairs, and an increasing corporation, my health, for some months back, having been better than it has been for years; besides this, you will find me afraid of the cold, very regular and old-bachelor-

like in my habits, and fond of having everything comfortable about me. In my heart and feelings, however, I hope you will find me unchanged, still as fond of the simplest pleasures as ever, and placing all my happiness in domestic comfort."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'*Suggestions for the Architectural Improvement of the Western Part of London*, by Sydney Smirke.'—Mr. Smirke is somewhat less of a visionary than most young architects. He has indeed, according to usage, his design for a Parliament House, and one or two other costly embellishments, but generally he looks to the practical, and judges of what is wanting by known and admitted inconveniences; for instance, he proposes to clear a direct carriage-way from Cockspur Street, right through to Covent Garden, and from Oxford Street to Holborn, two of the greatest improvements that could be undertaken, and for which a vote from Parliament would be justifiable. The thoroughfares of a city must be increased in number or in width, in proportion to the increase of traffic: while Charing Cross was the village of Charing, it is probable that fewer carts and carriages passed in a twelvemonth than now in an hour, and before the late alterations, it was notoriously blocked up for hours together. So it is now with Cockspur Street. No doubt the reader will recollect the dangerous and intricate perplexities, through which a carriage has to pass from thence to the theatres, with the usual confusion and delay at the sharp angular turning into Princes Street, and yet the very improvements, which have relieved the Strand by opening King William Street, have increased the traffic and the nuisance. Another suggestion of Mr. Smirke's, is an opening from the Strand into Holborn, through the east side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, and another circular sweep from the same point to the west side. This latter is, we think, obviously an error; the same line thrown a little more to the westward, would come out facing Little Queen Street, and thus open direct communication through King Street, Southampton Row, &c., with the whole north side of London, having also a communication with Lincoln's Inn Fields by two cross streets. Mr. Smirke suggests other alterations, which we think less practicable and less useful. There is no probability, for instance, of our being permitted to make a common thoroughfare through and across St. James's Park; and the proposed line of communication, from the Haymarket to Oxford Street, through Poland Street, would run parallel to Regent Street, and not be worth the cost. We have stated that Mr. Smirke is not very wild about the mere architectural embellishment of the city, but he has his hobby, and this is suburban villages, in the neighbourhood of Vauxhall Bridge, Euston Square, and the Edgeware Road, for the especial use of the poor, when routed out of St. Giles's and the other rookeries: but this is merely visionary: the poor man must reside in the centre of this great city, that he may be convenient to his casual labour, which lies one day east, and the next west, north, or south; and hence arises another strong reason for opening and ventilating crowded neighbourhoods; if the poor cannot get to the fresh air, it must be brought to them.

'*Catherine de' Medicis; or, the Rival Faiths*.'—The title of this book explains its purport—it is a tale of Catholic and Huguenot, with the usual bias of similar fictions; it contains too an attempt (and no more) to give a portrait of that wonderful woman, magnificent in crime, Catherine de' Medicis, and concludes, as every one will have already guessed, with an account of the tragedy of St. Bartholomew. For our parts, enough, we think, has been written on this subject, both in the way of fact and fiction,—

there has been enough stirring up of the black bile of man's nature—enough of appeal to his passions and his prejudices; and we are anxious for, and rejoice in, the universal peace. It is in the pause after the strife that permanent good is to be done, and it is folly to attempt to rekindle the dying embers of the fierce fire of controversy. The author also gives us a glimpse of Mary Stuart, but not a very vivid one: in short, as a story, 'Catherine de' Medicis' contains little to which we could object, but as little which we could commend.

'*The Duties of Men*, by Silvio Pellico. Translated by Thomas Roscoe.'—'*Des Devoirs des Hommes*, traduit de l'Italien par Antoine de Latour.'—There is something delightful in the enthusiasm, with which Mr. Roscoe seems to have undertaken the translation of this little serviceable volume; and, as if to raise the mind of the reader to the same moral tone, he has prefixed to it a pleasant biographical memoir, which cannot fail to interest and secure a patient and affectionate attention. Mr. Roscoe, in describing the work itself, says justly, that it "contains the substance of genuine christianity, practical education, and a simplicity and pathos in its appeals, which render it a powerful coadjutor in the great task of giving a new heart, and creating a right spirit in man"—and it is some proof of the general opinion entertained of its merits, that we have received the above translations into French and English, so quickly after noticing the first publication of the original work.† There is also a pleasant introduction prefixed to the French translation.

'*A Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Dutch, Flemish, and French Painters*, by J. Smith. Part V.'—This fifth volume contains accounts of the Paintings of Berghem, P. Potter, A. Vandervelde, Du Jardin, Cuyp, and Vanderhuyden. Every day proves to us more and more the value of this work, in helping us to determine on the genuineness of pictures, and in some degree their value. The biographical and critical notices of the several painters, are interesting and instructive, and curious information is occasionally to be met with, scattered over the pages in the accounts of what may be considered as the history of each picture: thus of Cuyp, now so much admired, we are informed that it was not for more than a century after his death, that his genius was properly estimated by his countrymen; that down to the year 1750, there is no instance in all the Dutch catalogues, to which the compiler has referred, of any picture by this artist having sold for more than thirty florins, something less than three pounds! Their value, it is said, was first made known by English amateurs, and their demand for them first affected the price at the sale of M. Slingelandt in 1785. Of their increasing value the following is a curious proof. A landscape now in the possession of Mr. Perkins, then sold for the supposed high price of 50*l*., subsequently, in 1798 it brought 261*l*., in 1806, 370 guineas, and in 1828, its present possessor gave for it no less than 1365*l*!

'*The Works of Burns; with his Life*, by Allan Cunningham, Vols. IV. V.'—These volumes complete this beautiful edition of the works of the Bard of Ayr, so far as concerns his poetry. Volume the fifth contains his correspondence with Thomson, on the subject of their joint undertaking, the songs he wrote for it, and many composed during the same period for other persons and purposes. Both volumes are graced with beautiful illustrations, and the pleasant comments of the editor, whose talk about the Chlorises, and the Jeanies, and the Marys, to whom the Poet addressed his appealing, or pathetic, or sarcastic lyrics, is always interesting. Some of the notes, too, contain amusing anecdotes, and scraps of tradition. We must

† See *Athenæum*, No. 339, p. 313.

give two new verses to the sweet song 'Of a' the airts the wind can blaw,' which we have not seen in print before.

O blaw, ye westlin winds, blaw saft
Among the leafy trees
Wi' balmy gale, frae hill and dale
Bring hame the laden bees;
And bring the lassie back to me
That's ay sae neat and clean;
Ae smile o' her wad banish care,
Sae charming is my Jean.
What sighs and vows among the knowes
Hae passed atween us twa!
How fond to meet, how wae to part,
That night she gaed awa!
The powers aboon can only ken,
To whom the heart is seen,
That nane can be sae dear to me
As my sweet lovely Jean!

The *addenda* to the spirited ballad 'The Carle of Kellyburn braes,' show us with what happy boldness Burns restored and amended sundry snatches of ancient song, which had no more than a traditional existence.—But we shall conclude with an anecdote concerning one of a class nowhere popular, and least of all, as it appears, in "the North Country."

"Gaugers were, for a long period, cordially disliked in Scotland; to cheat them was almost considered a duty. Tradition relates, that at Annan once a large quantity of smuggled tea and brandy had just been carried into an inn there, when, to the consternation of all concerned, the gauger was seen approaching. Concealment was out of the question, for the importation was large and lying on the floor. All this was observed by a shrewd idiot, well known by the name of Daft Davie Graham; he snatched up a long whip, and walking leisurely to a 'midden-dub,' threw in the lash of the whip, watched it, and played it with all the anxiety of an angler.—'What are ye fishing for there, Davie?' said the officer of the revenue.—'Fishing for devils,' was the answer.—'Devils!' said the other, 'and what do you bait with?'—'Gaugers,' replied David. The laugh of the bystanders at the sharp joke made the gauger turn his horse's head another road, and miss a prey."

'The Church and its Adversaries, a Sermon by the Rev. H. Stebbing, M.A.'—Next to the blessing of the total cessation of controversy—a consummation not to be expected in our day—is the display of a conciliatory christian spirit in polemical works, a sign of improvement in the age, which we have recently had many occasions to notice and commend. The Sermon before us, was preached "on occasion of reading the King's letter in aid of the fund for building churches and chapels;" such an occasion arising at a time when the propriety of maintaining any National Church was under discussion, naturally imposed upon the preacher the duty of noticing the claims which the Church has upon the public support. In the arena of controversy, Mr. Stebbing appears as a moderator: he argues that "never was the Almighty's providence more signally displayed, than in the establishment of the English Church, on the ruins of papal domination and papal error;" hence he infers, that the friends of the Church should labour strenuously to keep it free from any of the blots that human selfishness may introduce into the purest establishment, and that its enemies should cautiously examine the grounds of their hostility, "lest haply they may be found to be fighting against God."—Addressing his discourse to the friends of the Church, Mr. Stebbing declares that he does not, and could not, maintain the spotless purity of the establishment, and he points out some errors, which he thinks ought to be amended. His observations on the present system of patronage and promotion deserve great attention:—

"There can be but one opinion as to the general principle which should prevail in the management of resources given for the sole purpose of promoting the interests of Christ's re-

ligion; but obvious as it is, that to support an efficient and independent body of ministers is the first grand object for which the wealth of a church should be expended, we find that in our apostolic establishment, the same fearful vice has long prevailed which lent a powerful hand to the ruin of earlier churches. It is no trifling thing to a genuine churchman to see simony allowed, by a mere quirk of law, to practise its infamous arts undisturbed; still less is it so to know that there is, in fact, a worse species of simony than that which carries on its traffic by money, because it is a bolder vice, and has its chief seat in the highest places of national power:—I mean the simony of political patronage; that which, for the promise of so much help in the support of a particular measure, will give so many thousand souls over to the charge of, perhaps, the most worldly-minded and the most unlearned of the ministers of the church. The dire spirit of antichrist was never more clearly exhibited, in the worst periods of Roman corruption, than it has been in the unchecked use which the government of this country, or the agents of government in their several degrees, have been allowed to make of church patronage to carry their ends. In some instances, it may be feared, the sin of the politician has infected the ruling members of the church itself, and the cedar and the gold of the temple have been taken away, even by those who dwell therein, to satisfy the labourer who was not worthy of the meanest hire. * * *

"As patronage is at present disposed of, there is a threefold evil always in action. In the first place, the clergy are tempted into seeking preferment by methods which little become the pure, independent, elevated temper of mind which should always characterize a minister of religion. In the second place, the worthy and laborious curate is, with very few exceptions, dispossessed of his office, and not in very rare cases driven into a situation of the greatest anxiety and distress; and that not because his virtues are unknown, but because the benefice has been promised elsewhere. In the third place, the church is deprived hereby of the full portion of intellectual power, as well as of the spiritual exertion which it has a right to look for from the great body of its clergy."

The preacher next enumerates the opponents of the church, and addresses them in a tone of affectionate remonstrance, well calculated to disarm an adversary. We shall give no opinion respecting the success with which Mr. Stebbing's conclusions are established, but we bear willing testimony to the temper and talent with which his argument is conducted.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

Among the strange events of the passing world, not the least extraordinary is a Quaker at Court, in the costume of a Doctor of Laws! We announced some time since, that the people of Manchester had subscribed 2,000*l.* for a statue, by Chantrey, of their illustrious townsman, John Dalton, the discoverer of the atomic theory of chemical combination, and that Oxford had conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws. Being at present on a visit to London—and we had the pleasure of meeting the venerable old man at the last conversation at the London University, and since, among the earliest, on his way to the artist's studio, looking as hale and well as his friends could desire—it was thought proper that he should be introduced to his Majesty, and he was accordingly presented in his Doctor's robes, by the Lord Chancellor, at the last levee. All this is pleasant in many ways; pleasant for the honour and respect that has been thus shown to mere genius, and moral worth, for Dr. Dalton has always been a poor man, and maintained himself

as a teacher in his native town,—and pleasant for the example thus set by one of a worthy sect, but rigid disciplinarians, of a growing indifference to mere forms.

We have been assured, and that on seemingly good authority, that the son and son-in-law of Sir James Mackintosh have declared their intention of writing a full account of the life of their illustrious relative, and that Lord Holland, and the other friends of the deceased, have offered to place in their hands all letters and papers likely to contribute to the completeness of so desirable a work.

We read lately in *The Town* a list of lost, stolen, or strayed pleasantries, and among them was Mr. Hood's 'Tyne Hall': our contemporary will be glad to hear that, like Capt. Ross's papers, it has been found, and will forthwith appear.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE anniversary meeting of this Society was held on the 10th instant; the President, the Right Hon. C. W. Williams Wynn, in the chair. The annual report of the Council, and the Auditors' report, were first read; then Sir A. Johnston, as Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, made a report of its proceedings for the past year. The chief subjects on which the Committee had been engaged in procuring information, were the preparation of a code of laws for British India; the improvement of the communication between Europe and India, by means of steam navigation; and the effects of opening the trade between Great Britain and China. Under the first head were comprised the different tenures of land existing in India; customs of marriage, adoption, and inheritance; assignments, gifts, and sales of land; the laws affecting the commercial, manufacturing, and moneyed interests; the state of education, and the effect of certain pernicious laws on society in general; concluding this division with a notice of the various kinds of oaths administered in the different courts of justice in India. With reference to the second topic, Sir Alexander mentioned the inquiries that were in progress as to the various routes formerly pursued by merchants and others from Europe to India. He then proceeded to develop the beneficial effects which may be expected to result from the opening of the China trade; concluding his address by some remarks on the improved means at the disposal of the Committee for carrying its researches into effect, and the indications of a more general interest being taken in what relates to eastern affairs.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Sir A. Johnston, for his report, with a request that he would reduce it to writing, for the purpose of being printed.

The following gentlemen were elected into the council:—viz. Sir R. H. Inglis, Bart., W. B. Bayley, Esq., Lieut.-Col. Colebrooke, C. Elliott, Esq., R. Jenkins, Esq., L. H. Petit, Esq., D. Pollock, Esq., and Prof. Wilson, in the room of the Earl of Caledon, Right Hon. H. Ellis, Right Hon. H. Mackenzie, the Hon. R. H. Clive, R. Clarke, Esq., Lieut.-Col. Doyle, Lieut.-Col. Tod, and H. P. G. Tucker, Esq.

Sir Graves C. Houghton, K.H., was elected Librarian, in the room of Col. Tod; all the other officers were re-elected; the meeting then adjourned to the 7th of June.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

May 8.—Hudson Gurney, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Sir H. Ellis read a communication from Mr. Gage, the Director of the Society, upon the re-discovery lately of the remains of Thomas Duke of Exeter, which had been found sixty years ago in the ancient Abbey Church of St. Edmundsbury, and again interred. The hands

were at that time separated from the body, which was in a singularly complete state of preservation, and are now in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. The feet had been removed also, but whether it was at the same time or not, and what became of them, are not known.

A further description was next read, of some of the clay coin-moulds found in Yorkshire, which, with a crucible for melting the metal, were exhibited to the Society.

The attention of the Society was occupied during the rest of the sitting by a further portion of Mr. Y. Ottley's paper, which has been several times before referred to.

May 15.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—After the routine business was disposed of, Sir H. Ellis continued the further reading of Mr. Y. Ottley's paper upon the ancient illustrated Roman MSS.

Upon rising, the Vice President gave notice from the chair, of the Whitsuntide vacation.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

On Coins and Medals, by W. Wyon, A.R.A., Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint.

May 15.—After a few words of introduction, in which Mr. Wyon took occasion to acknowledge with gratitude the early patronage extended to him by the Society of Arts, he stated that it was not his intention to waste time in an attempt to discover who were the first inventors of money; and he referred the curious in such matters to Rineck and other writers. On the contrary, he should confine himself to a rapid sketch of the progress of the art, exhibited in the coinage of the ancients down to the decline of the Roman Empire; then give a brief account of modern coins, and conclude with a few remarks on medals. As the subject is one of general interest, we intend to give a very full report, and shall therefore preserve, as nearly as possible, the words of the lecturer.

The learned Eckhel, said Mr. Wyon, considers the first epoch to include all those coins fabricated from the invention of coinage to Alexander the First of Macedon, who is said to have died in the 291st or 309th year from the building of Rome. The early Greek coins are generally characterized by having on the reverses indented squares, or rude indentations; but some have an incuse (sunk in) reverse, answering, or nearly so, to the subject which is in relief on the obverse or head side. Some, however, have upon the reverse an indented object, different from that which is raised on the obverse, as may be seen in a very ancient coin of Metapontum; while the coins of Metapontum, Pastum (or Posidonia), Crotona, and Caulonia, have a dotted circle at the extreme edge.

One of the most interesting coins of antiquity, and certainly one of the most ancient, is the gold Daric, which is said to have been first coined by Darius Hystaspes, in the second year of the 64th Olympiad, or 522 before Christ; it is indeed doubtful whether there be any coins of greater antiquity. These gold Darics are of great purity as to the metal, but of a rude, irregular shape, and coarse workmanship. They have on the obverse the figure of a king kneeling upon one knee, holding in the left hand a bow, and in the right an arrow; upon the reverse merely a rude indentation. It was this type of an archer which gave rise to the pun, that Agesilaus King of Sparta had been driven out of Asia by 30,000 archers, he having, it is said, taken a bribe of that amount from Artaxerxes Mnemon, to evacuate Ionia, where he had gone to free the Greek cities, then groaning under the tyranny of Persia.

The most obvious peculiarity to be observed in this epoch is the indented or hollow square, which may probably have arisen in rude efforts to fix the blank piece of metal between the two dies whilst the blow was struck.

The second epoch is from Alexander I. of Macedon to Philip II., or the 395th year from the building of Rome; and during this period we discover a considerable improvement; but still the peculiarities of the earlier coins are visible: we have still the indented squares on the reverses, but the name of the city where struck, or of the king in whose reign, appears, or there is engraved a head, or some other object, or the same subject is repeated which appears on the obverse. Examples of this may be found in the coins of Acanthus, of Alexander I. of Macedon, of Thebes, of Syracuse, of Selinus, of Himera, and of Argos. Towards the end of this epoch some remarkably fine coins occur, as in those of Amphipolis of Thebes, (with the head of the Indian Bacchus,) of Methymna, of Chios, of Chalcis in Macedon, and many other specimens.

I am now, said Mr. Wyon, approaching the period when the art arrived at the highest point of excellence that it ever attained, or perhaps ever will attain—the third epoch, which is dated from Philip II. of Macedon to the termination of the Roman republic. That it was during this period that the art among the Greeks reached its highest perfection, may be proved by the coins of Syracuse, of Tarentum, of Rhegium, of Metapontum, of Velia, of Thurium, and other cities and states; and by the coins of kings, as of Alexander the Great, of Pyrrhus, of Lysimachus, of Antigonus, and his son Demetrius—by those of the kings of Egypt, of Pergamus, of Caria, of Syria, and of Pontus, and others.

Mr. Wyon now exhibited diagrams upon an enlarged scale, of some of these splendid productions of art, and stated that his object was to direct attention to the noble simplicity which characterized these works. In them all the adventitious embellishments of background, which so frequently debase modern efforts, and are particularly observable in the medals struck during the reign of Louis XIV., are rejected, and emblems, when introduced, are all made subservient to the principal subject:—no one, said he, can observe the head of Ceres on the obverse of the Syracusan medallion, without exclaiming, this must be a Goddess! and, perhaps, in the whole range of Grecian art, there will be found no specimens superior to this in beauty and boldness; although the size of the medallions scarcely exceeds that of a half-crown, they appear of colossal proportions. This effect is produced by the simple treatment of the parts, and the depth of the impression; and the high relief given to these works has probably been the means of handing them down to us in the wonderful state of preservation in which we see them.

But however deservedly the coins of antiquity are admired for the beauty of their workmanship, and for the interest which they create, either from their portraits or symbolical reverses, it is much to be lamented that they so rarely give us a date. In fact, no date is to be found on Greek coins but that from the era of the Seleucids, and this only appears on a few of the coins of the cities of Asia Minor, and upon those of the kings of Syria, Pontus, and Bithynia; and as it first occurs only on the coins of Demetrius I. of Syria, the identification of most of his predecessors is extremely doubtful, difficult, and uncertain. This want of dates, therefore, makes the greater number of coins of very little use to the student of chronology.

It may be worthy of remark that the coinage of Athens by no means kept pace with that of other districts, far inferior to it in science and renown. It is known from universal testimony, that the fine arts were carried, in Athens, to a height of refinement beyond the reach of other nations—the coarse execution of their coins, therefore, is not a little remarkable, and the purity of the silver has been assigned as the rea-

son—this being so universally acknowledged, even by the barbarians, that the Athenians feared to make any considerable change in the form or workmanship of their coin; and it may be observed, that we have a parallel for this in more modern times, similar causes having prevented the Venetians from making any alteration in the type or figure of their zechin, which may be termed the standard gold coin of the East.

The learned author of the introduction to the volume of Sculpture published by the Dilettanti Society, supposes the heads of Minerva on the early coins of Athens to have been copied from the statue of that goddess executed by Endæus, (the disciple of Dædalus,) seen by Pausanias in the Acropolis,—a supposition which appears very reasonable when we compare the style and costume with other works of the highest antiquity.

At an earlier period, which we assume to have been before the time of Pericles, the helmet on the head of Pallas is of the simplest form, and of rude workmanship: at the next we find some improvement—the head is decorated by a sphynx and two griffins: in the first instance, we have on the reverse the owl, accompanied only by an olive branch and a small crescent; but in process of time she is surrounded by a wreath of laurels, standing upon a diota, with emblems of all times and countries. It is partly by the progressive change of the accessories, that the respective dates of Athenian coins are attempted to be ascertained.

In taking even a rapid survey of the Greek coinage, we cannot sufficiently admire the grandeur of style displayed in the heads of their deities, many of which belong to the highest class of works of art; and in comparing these works with all modern efforts, it will be admitted that, while the latter are frequently more correct in drawing, they are inferior in energy and power. The portraits of their kings are only inferior to those of the deities they worshipped, and probably retained merely sufficient likeness for identification; there are, however, to be met with, many splendid examples of the most elaborate finish in the detail, and truth of resemblance to individual nature, without the breadth of effect being destroyed.

The reverses of the Greek coins are usually very simple—sometimes symbols by which a particular place was indicated. Thus Cyrene adopted the silphium which it cultivated; Selinus the leaf of parsley corresponding with its name; Sicily might be distinguished by the Triquetra, or three legs united, as in our Isle of Man halfpence, and Rhodes by its favourite bearing of a rose.

Mr. Wyon now proceeded to the fourth epoch, which, according to Eckhel, dates from the termination of the Roman Republic to the time of the Emperor Hadrian. During this period were produced the finest specimens that are to be found in the Roman mintage, and foremost of these, may be mentioned the coins of Nero (particularly the brass ones), of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Domitian, although very fine ones of other Emperors are also extant.

The fifth epoch Eckhel extends from the period of the Antonines, successors of Hadrian, to the reign of Gallienus, but so very rapid a decline takes place in the art of coinage after the third Gordian, that a learned Numismatist has suggested, that this division should terminate with the last-named Emperor; and that the existence of a sixth epoch should be admitted, to extend from Gordian III. to Constantine I. (or the Great), during which period, although, for the most part, a deplorable falling off in the beauty of the coins appears, yet, a few are occasionally met with of good, and some, the gold ones of Posthumus in particular, of fine workmanship.

If the Roman series of coins cannot boast of

the noble simplicity that is to be found in the Greek, yet it possesses specimens of great beauty, variety, and interest, remarkable for fidelity of portraiture, delicacy of workmanship, and richness of device. The portraits of the Emperors are particularly to be admired for their truth of resemblance: by them, we become acquainted with their character, from the expression of the face. We receive from them the likenesses of emperors, empresses, and great men, for three successive centuries; and on their reverses are recorded the virtues of the sovereign, his pursuits, his honours, civic and military: they also furnish us with many historical facts. Among the coins of Claudius, for example, is one, struck on the occasion of the conquest of this country, upon which is a triumphal arch inscribed with *DE BRITANNIA*. The figure of Britannia, not unlike the one upon our copper money, is to be met with in the large brass coins of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius; an interesting coin of Tiberius commemorates the restoration of twelve cities of Asia destroyed by an earthquake; another of Germanicus celebrates the recovery of the Roman Eagles; others give us triumphs, secular games and exercises. The coins of Vespasian and of his son Titus boast of the conquest of Judea; those of Nerva constantly proclaim his unbounded benevolence to the people; one of Trajan's represents the Emperor as a warrior, (standing between two rivers), the Euphrates and Tigris subjugated at his feet, adding the Eastern provinces of Armenia and Mesopotamia to the Roman Empire; another of Severus represents the funeral pile on which his obsequies were performed. We have also upon the Roman coins, copies of the most celebrated statues, temples, buildings, bridges, aqueducts, and columns of the imperial city; the most imperishable records of the grandeur, taste, and power of the Roman people exhibited in their common monies.

We have the same deficiency of dates to regret in the Roman coins, as has been already acknowledged in regard to the Greek. Mr. Wyon stated, that, as well as he could recollect, only two in the whole series of Roman Emperors bear a date; and there are no dates on consular coins, although they present many very interesting portraits and reverses. The first of the two dates appears on a coin of Hadrian, which exists both in gold and in brass, although both are of great rarity, and refers to the 874th year from the building of Rome, or 122 after Christ. The second instance is of the Emperor Philip, a very common coin in silver and brass, which belongs to a much more important period, the 1000th year of Rome, or the *Milliarium Seculum*, being 248 years after Christ, on which occasion Philip, in order to please the Roman people, and make them forget the recent assassination of the young and amiable Gordian, celebrated the secular games with great magnificence.

The reverses of some of these coins present lively figures of some uncommon animals, then exhibited to the people to be slaughtered in the cruel sports of the arena; amongst others, that of the hippopotamus, being the only specimen of that unwieldy animal brought alive into Europe. From the time of this Philip to that of Diocletian, it may be said that there are no coins of good silver: indeed, from Gallienus to that period, a space of twenty-four years, although in that short space of time there are coins of at least twenty Emperors who had walked over the bloody stage of empire, yet, there are no coins even tolerably pure, of that metal. This is very difficult to account for, as the gold coins are by no means rare, and are of good workmanship. With Constantine the Great, a new era presents itself—coins of good silver of himself, and his successors in the West,

being common until the reign of Valentinian III., A.D. 435, when the silver coinage ceases altogether, and no more coins of Roman Emperors are known.

The rise of Christianity seems to have been the signal for the decline of all interest in the design and execution of coins. The reverses of those after the Constantines present no historical memorials, and the heads scarcely furnish any resemblance to the human face divine,—a remark more particularly applying to the wretched successors of the Greek dynasty at Constantinople, not excepting the great Justinian.

Mr. Wyon then proceeded to give some account of the coins of our own country. He observed that in the early ages, they are extremely barbarous, still, to an English auditory, he felt bound to give the history of the art as we find it exhibited on British coins.

The coins of the ancient Britons, previous to the arrival of the Romans, (notwithstanding many specimens remain,) are so little known, that very few can be appropriated with any certainty, with the exception of those of Cunobeline; some, indeed, are attributed to Boadicea, and one is engraven as of Segonax. Many of the coins of Cunobeline, however, exhibit a considerable advance in the art, which induce a belief, as well from the design as execution, that they must have been the work of Roman artists; they are found in gold, silver, and copper. During the occupation of Britain by the Romans, from 43 to 448, or about 400 years, it is probable that the circulation was confined to Roman monies.

The Saxons introduced three denominations of coin—the *Scatta* and *Penny* in silver, and the *Styca* in copper; the latter is believed to have been entirely confined to the kingdom of Northumbria. The earliest Saxon coin that can be appropriated is a *Scatta* of Ethilberht, King of Kent, who began to reign in 561; this description of coin seems to have lasted but a very short period, and to have been succeeded by the penny, as early as the reign of Eadvald, King of Mercia, in 716, from whom we have almost an uninterrupted series to the present day. Snelling says, "No nation in Europe can exhibit such a succession of coins, with the portraits of sovereigns, as the English, from the conquest"; but he might have gone two centuries further back, as the portrait of Offa, King of Mercia, 758, is upon his coins. The coinage of Offa is remarkable for its superiority of workmanship and variety of type, as compared with any other of the Saxons. From his time we have a complete series of pennies, with the heads of the monarchs, to the conquest, with the exception of Edmund Ironside, none of whose coins are now known: these pennies have the monarch's name and title on the obverse. Baldred, King of Kent, 803, was the first monarch who added the place of mintage on the coins. From Offa to Alfred the workmanship appears to have regularly declined; Alfred, however, made some attempts to improve the coinage, for we see some of his coins with the monogram of London on the reverse, that have the character of better workmanship. William the Conqueror continued the same kind of money. The coins from the conquest have one exception or break in the series of portraits, (if indeed such uncouth representations may be so called,) which is that of Richard I., none of whose English coins occur, though a well-known dealer some years ago fabricated two specimens for the curious of that day: there is, however, reason to believe that coins were struck in England during his reign; and if any be hereafter discovered, they will most probably bear his portrait, although his Anglo-Gallic money is without it. With the exception of the coins of Edmund and Richard I. all have portraits. The effigies of a prince, said Mr. Wyon, ought not to be looked upon as merely stamped

for ornament or honour, or to proclaim and set forth his titles, and where and when he reigned, but as public vouchers of the real and intrinsic value of money, according to the constant and general estimation of the world; the prerogative of the supreme magistrate in this respect being recognized by the subject, and allowed to none beside.

The penny was the largest piece coined previous to the reign of Edward III., unless the patterns for groats were by the first or second Edward, which is very doubtful. Edward III. coined groats and half groats.

Gold was first coined in England by Henry III., 1257, three or four specimens of which are still preserved; and it is a curious fact, that its circulation was petitioned against by the citizens of London. Edward III. was the first Prince whose gold coin was circulated,—since which time it has been common in England. An unique gold coin of Edward III., usually termed a half florin, is in the British Museum, also a quarter florin, the only instance of coins of that denomination having been struck in England: they are of great value, more especially the first. The high prices occasionally given for such rude specimens of coinage, are worthy of some mention. In 1817 a coin of Ethelred was submitted to public auction, and sold for the sum of 26*l.* 10*s.*, one of Hardyknute for 28*l.*, and in 1824 a coin of Alfred for 40*l.* 19*s.*

Though many of these, as specimens of art, are extremely rude, the noble of Edward III. (struck on his great naval victory,) on which he appears in a ship asserting the British dominion of the ocean, even if uncouth in execution, (which it is not,) would of right be regarded with curiosity, if not veneration. In the reign of Henry VII. we first find the coat of arms upon the reverse of the coin; he also first introduced the shilling; altogether a decided improvement may be observed, about this period.

Henry VIII. is infamous as being the first of our English sovereigns who debased the sterling fineness of our coinage; and notwithstanding the number of checks upon it, history gives us the most undeniable proofs how inefficient they all were, when the arbitrary will of the sovereign was allowed to put law and justice aside. Our admirable forms and regulations of the standard of the fineness of money, have existed since the reign of Edward III., but they were insufficient to prevent a Henry VIII. from disgracing his reign, by perhaps the most wanton debasement of the currency that was ever in a similar period of time practised in any country in the world. Mr. Wyon here adverted to a strange story told of the workmen who were employed in melting the base coins, (of Henry VIII.) namely, that most of them fell sick to death with the savour, and that they were advised to drink from a dead man's skull for their cure. Accordingly a warrant was procured from the council to take off the heads from London Bridge, and to make cups of them, out of which they drank and found some relief, although most of them died. If there be anything in this tale, it is probable that the sickness arose from the fumes of arsenic.

Henry VIII. on assuming the supremacy of the church, struck a medallic crown, to commemorate that very remarkable event; only one of these pieces is at present known, and is supposed to be of the highest value of any coin in the British series: the late possessor was offered 150*l.*, and refused; he estimated its value at 300*l.*

In the year 1529 Cardinal Wolsey was disgraced, and one of the articles of impeachment against him, was that of having placed his hat on the coins. Henry VIII. was the first monarch who coined shillings for common circulation.

Edward VI. added the half-crown, sixpence, and three-pence; this is the last reign in which we find a farthing in silver, which had been current since the time of Edward I.

Elizabeth is celebrated in the annals of our coinage, for improving the standard of our currency.

In order to hasten this improvement, and at the same time to show how much she was in earnest, she went publicly to the Tower, where she visited her mints, and coined certain pieces of gold, which she gave away to several about her. The restoration of the coinage to its former purity was celebrated by a medal being struck, commemorating that important event.

The only thing mentioned by Mr. Wyon, in reference to the coinage of James I. was, that the half unit recording the Union with Scotland, has the following inscription, HENRICUS ROSAS, REGNA JACOBUS. Henry united the Roses, James the Kingdoms.

Charles I. in all his difficulties never debased his coins. Had he done so, the parliament would not have failed to record the fact; he, however, preserved the standard inviolate, even when, from necessity, the workmanship of some was so rude, as to justify the suspicion that the dies must have been executed by a common blacksmith; the coins commonly called siege pieces, or money of necessity, were frequently mere masses of plate clipped off, and stamped with a castle, and various other rude devices.

One of the most important events in the history of our mint, was the invention of the mill and screw. Previous to the reign of Charles II. the money in circulation was made by forging or hammering slips of gold and silver to the proper degree of thickness, then cutting a square from the slip, which was afterwards rounded and adjusted to the weight of the money to be made; the blank pieces of money were then placed between two dies, having the device of the coin engraved upon them, and the upper die was struck with a hammer. This money was necessarily imperfect, from the difficulty of placing the two dies exactly over each other when the blank piece was between them, as well as from the impossibility of a man being able to strike with such force, as to make all parts of the impression equally perfect. The mill and screw, or, as we now term it, the coining press, was first invented in France, as is supposed, by Antoine Brucher, an engraver, in 1553, who first made trial of it in the palace of Henry II. It was introduced into this country by Nicolas Briot, from whose hand we have many patterns for coins during the reign of Charles I.; it was finally adopted at the Restoration.

We have also evidence of the mill and screw being used in the time of the Commonwealth, in a pattern for a coin, having on one side the English arms, with this inscription—"The Commonwealth of England," and on the other side two shields, upon one of which appears the English, and on the other the Irish arms, with this motto, "God with us"; there is milled round the edge "Petrus Blondeus inventor fecit." These coins were the subject of standing jokes with the cavaliers. The double shield, on the reverse, was called the Breeches for the Rump; and from the legend, they took occasion to say that God and the Commonwealth were on different sides.

Mr. Wyon now directed attention to the admirable works of Thomas Simon, who executed the coins of the Protector. If (said he) we admit these coins to have been current money, they are the first which have an inscription round the edge. His were also the first English coins with the laurel introduced upon the head. The portraits were modelled from the life by Simon, and are admirable for the truth of resemblance to individual nature; altogether, this series of coins presents to us some of the most beautiful specimens that are to be found on our coinage, combining, with the most exquisite workmanship, the mechanical advantages of the mill and screw.

Thomas Simon was chief engraver during the time of Cromwell, by whom he was much encour-

aged; he engraved the great seals, and many excellent medals, during the Protectorate, and remained in employment at the Mint during the early part of the reign of Charles II.; and, for the credit of our country, as it regards the coinage, it is to be lamented, that Charles became discontented with this inimitable artist, sent for the family of the Roettiers, foreigners whom he met with abroad, (and who, it is said, assisted him with money during his exile,) and appointed one of them to Simon's place in the Mint. This stimulated Thomas Simon to execute his famous pattern called the petition crown, which is thus described by Evelyn:—

"For the honour of our countrymen, I cannot here omit that ingenious trial of skill which a commendable emulation has produced in a medal, performed by one who, having been deservedly employed in the Mint at the Tower, was not willing to be supplanted by foreign competitors."

Upon the obverse of this pattern we have an excellent portrait of Charles; it is executed (for a modern coin) in high relief, and finished with great freedom and delicacy; on the reverse appear the arms of England, Scotland, and France, in four separate escutcheons, with the George in the centre; but, perhaps, the most interesting part of this piece is the inscription milled round the edge, running thus:—"Thomas Simon most humbly prays your Majesty to compare this, his trial piece, with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraved, to relieve him." There were but few of these pieces struck; the last that was offered at Sotheby's sale-rooms for public competition, and which was formerly in the possession of Mr. Trattle, sold for the sum of 225*l.*, so that posterity has done ample justice to the merits of the artist, although his skill, it is to be feared, failed of obtaining the redress which he sought. The Roettiers, though not equal to Simon, were certainly no mean artists; they continued in employment at the Mint until the time of William and Mary, when, on being suspected of a treasonable correspondence with the exiled king, they thought it advisable to quit the country.

The short and tempestuous reign of James II. could afford but little encouragement to the Arts, and the genius of William III. directed his attention to glory of a far different kind from that which is to be acquired from their advancement; but in the reign of Queen Anne we enter upon the second period remarkable for the beauty of our coinage. The dies were now executed by Croker, the chief engraver, and are justly considered to be only excelled by the masterly performances of Simon. It was during this reign that Dean Swift delivered to the Lord Treasurer his plan for improving the British coinage, which Mr. Wyon read and commended.

In consequence of Swift's suggestions, several patterns for halfpence and farthings were executed by Croker in a style very creditable to him. One of the latter has Britannia under a triumphal Arch holding an olive-branch in her hand; there is another on the Peace of Utrecht with this legend—PAX . MISSA . PER . OREEM. A third pattern has a female figure standing with an olive-branch in the right, and a spear in the left hand, signifying that she is desirous of peace, but prepared for war. The motto is BELLO . ET . PACE.†

After the time of Croker, the coinage continued in a very tolerable state, until the beginning of the reign of George III., when it fell into

† An absurd idea very generally prevails as to the value of a Queen Anne's farthing; it is thought, by the ignorant, to be worth many hundred pounds, and, in consequence, the officers of the British Museum are deluged with letters and applications on the subject: these supposed treasures generally prove to be mere counters; but granting they were genuine—and there are several varieties—the highest sum that has been given, for one in very fine condition, is about 5*l.*; they are generally of much less value.

the most disgraceful condition, so that almost anything in the least degree resembling silver was taken for a shilling or sixpence, without even the semblance of an impression, and even this trash was so exceedingly scarce that many persons were compelled to give a premium for it, to enable them to carry on their business.

In 1784, a copper token, called the Anglesea Penny, was struck by a private company, and from this time, the prerogative of the Crown, as regards the coinage, seems almost to have ceased. Not less than 600 tons of copper were coined at Birmingham, into copper tokens, between the years of 1787 and 1797, and we have not less than between four and five thousand varieties of this species of money, from various parts of the kingdom, remaining to attest the very peculiar state of the circulation. Many of these tokens exhibit fair specimens of art, in device and execution; they bear the portraits of illustrious men, represent historical events, views of remarkable buildings and great public works; and will hand down to posterity a general view of the state of architecture in Great Britain, in a cheap and imperishable form.

The silver coin followed in the steps of the copper, except that the Bank of England was, by authority, the first to issue silver tokens; this was done in 1797, by a countermark on the Spanish dollar. The Bank also issued 3*s.* and 1*s. 6*d.** tokens, but the price of silver advanced so much, as to cause this medium of exchange to disappear, and offered inducements to tradesmen to circulate tokens to an enormous amount. This disgraceful state of the currency continued until the year 1815. In the following year, the government resumed the prerogative of issuing money; since which time, the coinage is so familiar to us, as not to need any description.

Mr. Wyon then gave a highly interesting account of the mode of engraving and multiplying dies, and of modern medals, which we reserve for next week.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Royal College of Physicians	Nine, P.M.
	Royal Geographical Society	Nine, P.M.
	Medical Society	Eight, P.M.
TUES.	Zoological Society (Scientific Business)	p. 8, P.M.
	Medico-Botanical Society	Eight, P.M.
	Medico-Chirurgical Society	p. 8, P.M.
	Institution of Civil Engineers	Eight, P.M.
WED.	Royal Society of Literature	Three, P.M.
	Society of Arts	p. 7, P.M.
TH.	Royal Society	p. 8, P.M.
	Society of Antiquaries	Eight, P.M.
FRI.	Royal Institution	p. 8, P.M.

CAMBRIDGE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—Monday evening, Dr. F. Thackeray, the Treasurer, being in the chair, a paper by A. De Morgan, Esq., of Trinity College, was read, containing observations upon the principles which have usually been referred to in treating of Series and of the fundamental doctrines of the Differential Calculus; several of which principles the author conceives have been assumed without due proof; and examples were given in which such principles are false. Prof. Miller exhibited and explained the instrument invented by M. Say, for the purpose of taking specific gravities, with some improvements of his own. Mr. Willis exhibited and explained an instrument constructed by him, which produces correct representations of the orthographic projections of irregular objects, as for instance, of bones; this he proposes to call an Orthograph. Mr. W. W. Fisher gave a statement of his views concerning the origin of tubercular diseases; such diseases he conceives arise from a deficiency of nutritive energy in the osseous system and from the modifications introduced by this deficiency into the character of other vital processes in the animal economy.—*Camb. Chron.*

MUSIC

KING'S THEATRE.

Bellini's operetta, 'La Sonnambula,' was produced on Thursday week, for the benefit of Madame Caradori, but did not attract a full house; as, in spite of great occasional sweetness of melody, the effect of one of Bellini's compositions cannot fail to be feeble and unsatisfactory to the ears that have been lately enjoying the brilliancy and passion of Rossini. 'Don Giovanni' was repeated on Tuesday evening, but not quite so perfectly performed as when given for Zuchelli's benefit; the finale to the first act is certainly taken too fast, by which many parts of it are seriously injured, and some effects totally lost. As concerns the German opera, we refrain from giving any opinion until we have seen Winter's 'Das Unterbrochene Opferfest,' which is announced for Wednesday next. In the ballet we have had a novelty, in the form of two pairs of Spanish dancers, whose evolutions, (by some thought more curious than graceful,) with castanets and tambourines, are worth looking at— for once.

Neither the fifth nor sixth of the *Philharmonic Concerts* has offered any novelty of surpassing excellence either in composition or execution; and the band was by no means in its best order on both evenings.—The sixth *Antient Concert* was under the direction of the Duke of Cumberland, and is not deserving particular notice. The scheme of the seventh Concert, under the direction of the Archbishop of York, included some splendid music. The quintett, 'O voto tremendo,' from 'Idomeneo,' with the march, (the latter of which was *encored*), has seldom, if ever, been better performed.

THEATRICALS

DRURY LANE.

A notice of the last novelty at this house ought to have been presented to our readers last week, but, by mistake, it was not. We beg those who are interested in such matters to excuse us, and, considering the increased distance at which the piece went off, not to wonder at the increased length of time before they hear the report. The second part of 'King Henry the Fourth' was acted here on Wednesday week, as an introduction to the Coronation, and the Coronation was acted as an introduction for the most eminent Italian singers now in London. Any arrangement more completely apropos to nothing, could scarcely have been devised. We trust that absurdity has now reached its climax; that this last step has brought it to the top of the hill; that it will shortly begin to descend, if only by its own weight; and that in due time (though we cannot precisely predict in what season,) theatricals will once more find their level in the valley of common sense. It has been customary after the coronation of any one of our kings, to give an imitation of the ceremony at the large theatres; but the idea of anticipating the approaching musical festival in Westminster Abbey is new, and the notion of mixing two such things together is so new, that we suspect it will be called upon to remain so, and not be allowed to live till it become old. First, of the play, or rather of the manner in which it was acted. Mr. Macready's sick King was excellent; he has long been the best tragic actor upon our stage; this fact must be as well known to him as it is to us, and yet, to his credit be it spoken, such knowledge has never betrayed him into carelessness: on the contrary, the effect of constant study and constant reflection is everywhere visible upon his acting, and each season, for some years past, he has excelled the only actor he had to excel—the Mr. Macready of the previous season. We cordially recommend all dealers in self-satisfaction to follow so good an example. Of Mr. Downton's *Falstaff* we shall decline speaking;

when he plays Shakspeare's *Falstaff*, we shall be happy to report upon it. It is, in truth, more than a thousand pities to see so good an actor so careless of the words of his author. Mr. Cooper's performance of *The Prince of Wales* seemed to be influenced by the fact of his being stage manager, and by his consequent knowledge of the penance in store for him. He played it abstractedly, and as if he was saying to himself all the time—"Oh that hour and a quarter that I shall have to sit upon the stage, after I am crowned, to listen to the miscellaneous act of an oratorio!" Mr. Blanchard's *Silence* was of the good old Covent Garden school, and Mr. Farren's *Justice Shallow* was perfection. Mr. Webster played *Bardolph* with great good sense, and with its natural concomitant—discretion: he took his station, as his author intended he should, as one of *Falstaff's* satellites, and, unlike some satellites, he never attempted to outshine his planet. Mrs. Jones, in *Mrs. Quickly*, was only not Mrs. Daventry—she will scarcely desire greater praise. At length came the procession;—not to say more, it did not deserve the epithet of "correct," which so many of our brother scribes have bestowed upon it; our reasons are ready if required.

This led us to the last scene, which is described in the bills as the "Interior of Westminster Abbey in the reign of Henry IV., fitted up for the Grand Musical Festival." In the first place, we presume that the Abbey was not fitted up for the coronation of Henry V. "in the reign of Henry IV.;" and, in the next, may we ask, what is "the musical festival" referred to?

Well, well, there was the Abbey, and the King, and the bishops, and the peers and peeresses, and the orchestra, and the chorus-singers; and a portion of the ceremonies was gone through, and the crown was put upon the king's head, and the people knelt, and shouted, and sung. Then came the farce, which was, by way of novelty, introduced in the last scene of the play: the king was led to a throne at the side, and took his seat, the front-piece of the orchestra was pushed further on to the stage, and forward came Madlle. Julia Grisi, Signori Rubini, Tamburini, and Ivanoff, Messrs. Braham and Phillips, and Miss Shirreff; and there then, when we were all supposed to be at the coronation, and in the presence of Henry V., up rose Madlle. Julia Grisi, in the identical dress in which, half an hour afterwards, she was going to a party at Baron Rothschild's, in Piccadilly, and sang 'Di Piacere,' and very well she sang it;—then came the gentlemen, in coats, waistcoats, and (as Sir Francis Palgrave says in his History of the Anglo-Saxons,) "those parts of their dress which, if they had been Highlanders, they would not have worn," of the present day, and they entertained us with various effusions by Rossini, Donizetti, &c.; then Mr. Braham, in his *Don Juan* dress, sang the great scena for 'Oberon'; and Mr. Phillips, in the costume of Queen Elizabeth's reign, sang a sacred song of Sir John Stevenson's; and the whole concluded with 'Britons, strike Home!' and 'Zadoc the Priest.' In short, almost the only thing we missed was a hornpipe in fetters, and this, we do insist upon it, might have been introduced with great effect. There was plenty of room in front, between the king and the bishops; for the singers were placed so far back, that we pitied them for the manner in which they were forced to strain their throats. A curious sort of attempt was made to give an appearance of character-dresses to the orchestra, by giving them large shirt-collars outside their coats; but this only served to mark the absurdity more strongly. We do not positively assert that the clever lender, Mr. Mori, did not wear the blue coat and white waistcoat which he had on Wednesday, at the coronation of Henry V., but we will swear that we have seen him wear them both at the Philharmonic this season. We are bound faithfully to report these follies, and

to record our contempt for them; but we are at the same time bound, in justice, to state that the house was very full, that the singers gave great satisfaction, and were vehemently and (as far as they were concerned) justly applauded.

MISCELLANEA

King's College.—The annual report has been printed, and is on the whole satisfactory. The council congratulate the proprietors upon the success which continues to mark the progress of the Institution; and we were glad to learn, that "in the number of new admissions, and in revenue, the Medical School was never so prosperous as in the present year." The number of regular and occasional students and pupils who have entered the several departments since the re-opening in Michaelmas last, amounts altogether to 920.

Sale of the Rev. J. M. Rice's Library.—The prices which are brought by old English poetry are surprising, considering how soon Heber's vast collection will be sold, containing nearly every known, and many unknown, articles of rarity in this department. Mr. Rice was a collector from whim, rather than from any love of letters; and although upon many of his books, lately sold, there has been a heavy loss, they were still sold for much more than they are worth. Thus, some years ago he gave 42l. for a small 8vo. volume called 'The Nightingale,' by Patrick Hannay, and it was sold by Evans on Friday last, for 21l. 10s.: we would not have given the odd ten shillings for it, on the score of any actual merit in the work. Again, he gave 32l. 11s. at the Duke of Roxburgh's sale, for 'Skelton's Works,' printed in 1568, which were sold on Saturday for 10l. The 'Paradise of Dainty Devices,' for which he gave 55l. 13s., produced on the same day only 12l.—yet even that was far above its actual value. Buyers are not so raving mad as they were, but they are still mad. Lord Clive on Saturday laid down 24l. for Percy's 'Sonnets to the Fairest Calia,' 1594, in themselves not worth sixpence, looking only to the character of the poetry. The following were the prices at which a few of the other rarities sold:—Crompton's Pierides, 8vo., 1658, 7l. 10s.; England's Helicon, 8vo., 1614, 10l.; Dolarney's Primrose, 4to., 1606, 10l. 10s.; Fulwell's Flower of Fame, 1575, 3l. 18s.; Heywood's Spider and Fly, &c., 4to., 1562, 9l. 12s.; Hall's Homer's Iliads, 4to., 1581, 5l.; Hawes's Example of Virtue, 4to., 1530, 26l. 10s.; Chapman's Homer's Hymns, &c., folio, no date, 5l. 7s.; Lord Surrey's Songs and Sonnets, 8vo., 1557, 7l. 2s. 6d.; Stanyhurst's Virgil, 8vo., 1583, 6l.; Munday's Banquet of Daintie Conceits, 4to., 1588, 18l. 18s.; Parker's Psalter, 4to., circa 1558, 6l. 8s. 6d.; Peyton's Glasse of Time, 4to., 1620, 6l. 6s. The Four Leaves of True Love, 4to., no date, 10l.; Urchard's Epigrams, 4to., 1646, 5l.; Epitaph on Sir Thomas Wyatt, 4to., no date, 4l. 1s.; Whetstone's Mirror of True Honour, 4to., 1581, 7l. 7s.; Watson's Ekatompathia, 4to., 1581, 7l. 10s.—After reading this list, and it would be easy to extend it, are we not warranted in saying that book-buyers are still very mad? Not a few of the items were purchased by book-sellers, who have to make their profit upon them, so that what we have stated is not, perhaps, the extent of the folly: the booksellers hope that their customers are from 25 to 50 per cent. madder than we have rated them. Several of the productions that sold the dearest on Friday and Saturday, such as Percy's Sonnets, Munday's Banquet, Whetstone's Mirror, &c., have been reprinted within the last twenty years, so that if people want the book, they may have it in a handsome shape for only a few shillings, or even pence. There is no such thing as Bibliophobia after we have once got through the hornbook; and the collector's motto should be, not *semel; but semper insanavimus omnes*.

The Mediterranean and Red Sea.—A French engineer, named Fournel, lately went to Egypt to investigate whether it was possible to unite these seas, and he had several interviews with the Pacha on the subject. The Pacha was very anxious in his inquiries, and very desirous that the attempt should be made; but nothing is yet determined on. The Pacha was desirous of securing the professional services of M. Fournel, but that gentleman declined the offers made to him.

The March of Intellect.—According to French papers, the Sultan Mahmoud has recently founded, at Constantinople, a Turkish Academy upon the model of the Académie Française at Paris. He has also ordered the compilation of a Dictionary of the Turkish language.

Saxon Proverb.—There is nothing bolder than a miller's shirt, for every morning it takes a thief by the throat.—*Facetie Bebellane.*

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL

Days of Week.	Thermom.		Baromet.	Winds.	Weather.
	Max.	Min.			
Thur. 15	72	54	29.50	S. E.	Clear.
Frid. 16	72	53	29.63	N. E. to E.	Ditto.
Sat. 17	63	42	29.23	S. W.	Mist, P. M.
Sun. 18	67	44	29.08	S. W.	Cloudy.
Mon. 19	72	43	29.45	S. W.	Cloudy.
Tues. 20	76	42	30.10	S. W. to N. W.	Clear.
Wed. 21	76	48	30.30	N. to N. E.	Ditto.

Prevailing Clouds.—Cirrus, Cirrostratus, Cumulus, Cumulonimbus.
Mean temperature of the week, 56°. Greatest variation, 34°.—Mean atmospheric pressure, 29.60.
Nights fair. Mornings fair except on Thursday.
Day increased on Wednesday, 8h. 2'.

NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE AND ART.

A Descriptive Catalogue of Fifty of the Earliest Pictures in the National Gallery (including the two Correggios lately purchased,) by J. Landseer.
Illustrations, with a Topographical Account of Casbury Park, by John Britton, F.S.A.

The Duty of a Christian State to Support a National Church Establishment; the Scriptural Character and Claims of the Church of England: Five Sermons, by the Rev. J. Holmes.

A Treatise on the System of Intercourse and Communication in Civilized States, by Thomas Grahame.

Just published.—Public Record Commission, Sir P. Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs, and Writs of Military Summons, &c. folio. Vol. 2. 7s. —Blakely's System of Logic, 12mo. 4s. 6d. —Crosby's Three Cycles of Revelation, 8vo. 15s. —Voyages round the World, &c., by Capt. Edmund Fanning, 8vo. plates, 16s. —Dr. Roget's Bridgewater Treatise, 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. —Royle's Greek Testament, with English Notes, by the Rev. J. Smith, Vol. 1, 12mo. 10s. 6d. —The Elements of Flower Painting, 18mo. 4s. —African Sketches, by Thomas Pringle, 10s. 6d. —Usher's Cottage Life and Rural Scenery, a Poem, 12mo. 3s. —Beesley's Japheth, and other Pieces, 12mo. 6s. —Ackerly on the Navigation of the Thames, 8vo. 10s. 6d. —Chambers's Picture of Scotland, 2 vols. 16s. 6d. —Dudley Castle, &c. by Mrs. Sherwood, 18mo. 2s. —The Mother's Question-Book, 2s. 6d. —Origines Biblicæ, or, Researches in Primeval History, Vol. 1, 8vo. 10s. 6d. —An Essay on Primitive Preaching, by John Petherick, 12mo. 3s. —An Exposition of the Parables, &c., by the Rev. E. Gresswell, Part I. 3 vols. 8vo. 17s. 6d. —Sheridan's Guide to the Isle of Wight, 12mo. 6s. —The Melange, a Variety of Original Pieces in Prose and Verse, by Egerton Smith, 13s. 6d. —The Georgics of Virgil, translated into English Prose, by Isaac Butt, 12mo. 3s. 6d. —Ovid's Fasti, with English Notes, by Charles Stuart Stanford, A.M., 12mo. 5s. 6d. —Haddon's Improved Farmer's Account-Book, folio, 7s. 6d. —Pharmacopœia Homœopathica, by Dr. Quin, 8vo. 7s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Many thanks to Ombra.—A letter was addressed long since to S. K., Mortimer Street, but returned.

Thanks to J. M. R.—We must explain to several correspondents who have, at various times, forwarded information relating to discoveries at home and abroad, and such other matters as would undoubtedly interest the literary world, that we have been unable to benefit by their kind intentions, because they have not, in confidence, sent their names and address, and we can have no other security that the information is authentic.—We take this opportunity of returning our best thanks to the editor or proprietor of the *Montreal Gazette*, for his repeated kindness in forwarding to us copies of that paper when it contained literary or scientific information likely to interest our readers; also to the editor of the *Falmouth Packet*, the *Bath Guardian*, and others.

ADVERTISEMENTS

BOTANY.—Professor BURNETT will COMMENCE his SUMMER COURSE OF LECTURES, with HERBORIZATION, on MONDAY, the 26th instant. The Lectures will be delivered daily, Wednesdays excepted, at Eight in the forenoon. W. OTTER, M.A. Principal. King's College, May 22, 1834.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—GEOLOGY.
A COURSE of about Thirty Lectures will be delivered on this Subject. The Lectures will be delivered five times a week, at TWO O'CLOCK, commencing from Thursday, the 22nd inst.
The Course will consist of three PARTS: viz.
FIRST PART, by Dr. TURNER, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, On the Composition of Minerals, and on the Nature, Formation, and Superposition of Rocks.
SECOND PART, by Dr. GRANT, PROFESSOR OF ZOOLOGY, On Fossil Zoology.
THIRD PART, by Dr. LINDLEY, PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, On Fossil Botany.
Fee, 2s. 2d.
Council Room, 7th May, 1834. THOMAS COATES, Secretary.

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The first Conversation of this Institution will be held on Tuesday next, May 27th, when Dr. Yates will read a paper 'On the Present Condition of the Jews in Palestine.'
By order of the Council, CYRUS R. EDMONDS, Secretary.

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITERARY FUND SOCIETY will be celebrated in Freemason's Hall, on SATURDAY, JUNE 7th, 1834.

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Tickets (20s.) may be had at the Chamber of the Society, 4, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

RESIDENT AND DAILY GOVERNESSES AND PROFESSORS.—TO FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS.—Monsieur LOUIS DE PORQUET, Bookseller, who has been 20 years a Professor of Languages in England, and Author of 'Le Trésor de l'Écolier Français, or the Art of Translating English into French at Sight,' informs the Nobility, Gentry, and Heads of Schools, that he has numerous applications from Paris and London for GOVERNESSES AND TEACHERS in various situations in England. None of Porquet's experience as a Teacher, it is considered, enables him to be competent to judge of the several abilities of the candidates, who are recommended by him to select families free of any charge.—Apply (post paid) to Messrs. Louis de Porquet and Co. 11, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden.

THE PANTHEON will be Opened to the Public on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, and continue open daily from 10 till 6.

By order of the Trustees, H. B. RICHARDSON, Manager.

THE COMMEMORATION OF SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, and Presentation of the Gresham Prize Medal, will take place, by permission of the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR, at the MANSION HOUSE, on Saturday, June 7, at 3 o'clock.

PART I.
The Oratorio of THE LAST JUDGMENT. Spohr.
GRESHAM PRIZE COMPOSITION, Goss.
THE SECOND PART WILL INCLUDE
A SELECTION of GLEES and MADRIGALS, by Lord Burgherah, Sir J. L. Rogers, Bart., Frazer, Henley, Northing, and the Gresham Professor of Music.
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